

Flying Start Partners Webinar – 17 July 2026

Preschool Plus

Q & A Summary

Q: Can you confirm whether funding for staff backfill is only available in a service's first year as a Flying Start Preschool Plus delivery partner?

If so, are services expected to ensure new staff complete the mandatory training as part of their induction from the second year onwards?

A: Yes. Funding to support staff backfill for the mandatory Trauma Informed Practice and Aboriginal Cultural Safety training is only available during a partner service's first year of delivery. An exception applies to services that commenced in 2026 and were unable to complete the Aboriginal Cultural Safety training due to limited training availability. These services may use their allocated backfill funding in their second year to complete the training.

From the second year onwards, services are expected to embed the mandatory training into their staff induction processes and support new team members to complete it as part of onboarding.

Q: If an early childhood teacher (ECT) is on leave during the term break, is the service required to provide an ECT as backfill?

A: An ECT is only required during periods when the funded preschool program is being delivered.

If the ECT who is responsible for delivering the preschool program is unavailable during a scheduled preschool delivery period, the service must arrange for another qualified ECT to deliver the program.



If the service is operating during a period when the funded preschool program is not being delivered (for example, outside the scheduled preschool program delivery period), ECT backfill is not required.

Further information about ECT requirements is available in the Policy and Funding Guide on the OECD Partner Portal.

Q: Can Preschool Plus be delivered over five days per week if the required program hours are spread across those five days?

A: No. Preschool Plus must be delivered over a maximum of four days per week. This is a program requirement and applies regardless of the total number of program hours offered across the week or year.

Q: When will the 2027 Policy and Funding Guide be available?

A: The Policy and Funding Guide for 2026 remains current and continues to apply to all Flying Start partner services delivering the program in 2026.

The Policy and Funding Guide for 2027 includes further detail about the Flying Start programs and partnership requirements, including the new funding rates, and will be shared with partner services in the coming weeks to inform planning for 2027.

