

Flying Start

Provisionally Registered Teachers
Mentoring Program



Government of
South Australia

Flying Start
for kids

Acknowledgement of Country

From the heart:

We acknowledge the Aboriginal peoples as the First peoples of South Australia and as custodians of the lands, waters, skies and Communities where we live, learn and raise children.

We recognise Aboriginal peoples as having the longest living Culture, raising children safe and strong in their identity, Community, Culture, and connection to Country.

We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present, and their role as the first knowledge sharers for children. We follow in their footsteps.

Aboriginal peoples, working with and for children, are central in shaping our work. Their wisdom, advice, and guidance enriches our practices, creating a more inclusive and Culturally safe environment for children and families.

We respect Aboriginal peoples' ways of being, doing and wise practices guiding our continual learning. Together we walk and build stronger, more supportive Communities for all children.

Terminology

In South Australia, we acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which the staff of the Government of South Australia works. We respect preference to use the term 'Aboriginal peoples' to acknowledge in written and spoken language both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.



Overview

These guidelines set out the program details and funding support available to Flying Start Partner Services and non-partnered services with staff participating in the Provisionally Registered Teachers Mentoring Program (PRT Mentoring Program).

The program is delivered by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) and administered by the Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD).

The PRT Mentoring Program aims to increase the number of Provisionally Registered Teachers (PRTs) moving to full registration, building a highly skilled, fully qualified and registered early childhood teacher workforce. This in turn will support retention, uplift quality, and enhance children's developmental outcomes.

The PRT Mentoring Program is an opt-in program, offering mentoring to PRT mentees at differing levels of intensity, according to their individual needs and circumstances. The PRT Mentoring Program also offers the opportunity for highly skilled and experienced, fully registered teachers to participate as ECT mentors.

The PRT Mentoring Program provides funding to support services that have a staff member participating in the program.

About the PRT Mentoring Program

Program details

The PRT Mentoring Program will offer two distinct models of support. In both models the PRT mentee will be matched with an appropriate highly skilled mentor - this may be a Portfolio Advisor or mentor employed by ECA or an ECT mentor supported by their service to participate in the program.

Mentees

PRT mentees participating in the **low support model** will be supported by a Portfolio Advisor to participate in:

- Group mentoring sessions (led by a Portfolio Advisor)
- Allocated portfolio completion time
- Site visits from their Portfolio Advisor to observe and act as evaluator for their teacher registration process

The low support model will take place over a 6-month period.

Mentees participating in the **high support model** will be matched with an ECT Mentor from outside of their service or provider, or a Portfolio Advisor or mentor engaged by ECA and will participate in:

- 1:1 mentoring sessions
- Allocated Portfolio completion time
- Site visits from their mentor to observe and act as evaluator for their teacher registration process.

The high support model will take place over a 6 to 12-month period, with a mid-point check in to determine suitable program duration for individual participants.



Both models will also include a PRT Community of Practice (CoP) facilitated by ECA to share learnings, build professional connections and access supportive peer relationships.

ECT Mentors

ECT Mentors are part of the high support model and will be matched with a PRT mentee from outside of their service or provider. ECT mentors will undertake Professional Development to grow as leaders and contribute to the development of high-quality teaching across the sector. ECT mentors will also be part of a Mentor CoP that is facilitated by ECA to deepen knowledge, professional connections and ongoing learning.

ECT Mentors will undertake:

- Professional Development training to build mentoring capability, knowledge and skill (provided free of charge by ECA)
- 1:1 mentoring sessions with their matched PRT mentee
- ECT Mentor Community of Practice (facilitated by ECA)
- Site visits to their PRT mentee to observe and act as evaluator for their mentee's teacher registration process.

Portfolio Advisor

Portfolio Advisors are highly experienced, suitably qualified ECTs engaged directly by ECA to participate in the PRT Mentoring Program. They will:

- Lead group mentoring sessions
- Conduct site visits to allocated PRT mentees in the low support model
- May act as a mentor to PRT mentees in the high support model

ECA may also directly engage mentors to participate in the program as required (where not currently employed at a service). These mentors will be highly skilled and experienced, fully registered ECTs available to support PRT mentees involved in the program.

Eligibility

Participation in the PRT Mentoring Program will be subject to program capacity as determined by ECA. Assessment and triaging of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be undertaken by ECA, with priority consideration given to professionally isolated PRTs.

For further information about submitting an EOI, or the eligibility criteria, triaging and onboarding process for the PRT Mentoring Program, please see the ECA website [here](#).

PRT eligibility

All PRTs working in long day care or non-government sessional preschool in South Australia, and in need of support to progress to full teacher registration are eligible to submit an EOI for the program. The program is not available to teachers employed by the Department for Education, Out of School Hours Care or Family Day Care.¹

¹ Eligible employees of the Department for Education are supported by the Department's [Early Career Teacher Development](#) program.

PRTs will not be eligible if an existing alternate program aimed at supporting teachers to transition to full teaching registration is accessible through their Provider.

Mentor eligibility

Highly experienced ECTs are strongly encouraged to participate in the program as mentors. ECT mentors must be suitably qualified, hold full teaching registration, and be able to mentor a PRT outside of their service or provider. Where prospective mentors have a current employer it is their responsibility to ensure that any appropriate permission is given to allow them to take on mentoring duties.

Available funding

Funding rates are based on the role the staff member is undertaking in the program, the associated program activities and any relevant travel involved in their participation in the program.

Services with a teacher participating in the program as an ECT mentor will receive a higher rate of funding to acknowledge the teacher's expertise and experience, and commitment to sector strengthening.

As ECT mentors will be required to travel to participate in program activities including to conduct site visits to support, observe and evaluate a PRT mentee, the quarterly payment rates include a contribution towards travel time differentiated by either metro or regional/rural location.

Funding amounts will be determined by quarterly program participation reporting provided by ECA to OECD and will be paid quarterly in arrears. The program is a 2-year trial pilot commencing delivery in Term 4 2026. Funding amounts may be adjusted throughout the pilot period.

Mentee	Quarterly Rate		Program Hours
	2026 rate	2027 rate	
Low support model	\$490	\$630	14 hours per quarter (6-month program)
High support model	\$490	\$630	14 hours per quarter (6–12-month program)
Mentor (metro)	Quarterly Rate		Program Hours
First Quarter in Program	\$2,014		30 hours (includes 2 PD days) plus reasonable travel time to attend program activities.
Future Quarters in program	\$1,219 per quarter		15 hours per quarter plus reasonable travel time
Mentor (regional or rural)	Quarterly Rate		Program Hours
First Quarter in Program	\$2,226		30 hours (includes 2 PD days) plus reasonable travel time
Future Quarters in program	\$1,431 per quarter		15 hours per quarter plus reasonable travel time

Spending rules for PRT Mentoring Program funding

Funding must be used to support the release of the PRT mentee or ECT mentor to participate in the PRT Mentoring Program. This includes the cost of temporary relief ECTs/staff to cover service staff participating



in the program. This may include backfill to replace a staff member during service hours, or to pay a staff member beyond their ordinary hours.

Eligibility for funding

Services are eligible for funding if they have a staff member participating in the PRT Mentoring Program.

Services must release their staff member/s participating in the program to support their engagement in all elements of the PRT Mentoring Program.

Participants in the PRT Mentoring program must engage in all elements of the program and fulfil the agreed quarterly program hours. ECA will report program participation to OECD, who will administer the funding to services through Partnership Agreement quarterly payments, or Grant Agreements for non-partnered services.

If a participant in the PRT Mentoring Program ceases employment with a service during the program, the service will not be entitled to any future funding aligned to that participant's program activities.

Funding restrictions

Funding cannot be used as a substitute for a service's existing mentoring program, where that program is aimed at supporting teachers to transition to full teaching registration.

What to do

Expressions of Interest

EOI's for the PRT Mentoring Program will be undertaken by individual participants (PRT mentee or ECT mentor). This will be completed in consultation and agreement with their service.

It is an expectation of the service to support and prioritise the release of program participants when receiving PRT funding. Partner Services may also wish to refer a staff member to the EOI information on the ECA website [here](#).

EOIs will open for separate tranches throughout the pilot period. Dates will be communicated to Partner Services through the Flying Start Webinar Series and e-bulletin, and publicly available on the ECA and OECD webpages and communicated via various channels.

EOIs will be assessed by ECA, with successful applicants onboarded into the relevant program model.

PRT Mentoring Program funding for services

All Services with a teacher participating in the PRT Mentoring Program will receive funding based on ECA's quarterly program participation reporting to OECD.

How services receive this funding will differ based on whether they are a Flying Start Partner Service or a non-partnered service.

Flying Start Partner Services

Partner Services with a teacher participating in the PRT Mentoring Program will receive funding through their Partnership Agreement regular quarterly payment cycles.

Funding provided for the PRT Mentoring Program will need to be accounted for in the service-level annual financial acquittal process through the OECD.



In accordance with the Policy and Funding Guide, Partner Services with a staff member onboarded into the program must support their participation in all program activities, through ensuring adequate release time to engage in and complete all elements of the PRT Mentoring Program.

Non-partnered services

Non-partnered services with a teacher participating in the PRT Mentoring Program will receive funding through a grant agreement administered by OECD. The purpose of the grants is to provide funding to support services that have a staff member participating in the PRT Mentoring Program.

In accordance with the grants to non-partnered services, services with a staff member onboarded into the program must support their participation in all program activities, through ensuring adequate release time to engage in and complete all elements of the PRT Mentoring Program.

Grant Funding key information

Program	Flying Start Provisionally Registered Teachers Mentoring Program
Eligible organisations	Early Childhood Education and Care services who are <u>not</u> a Flying Start Partner Service and that have a staff member participating in the Flying Start Provisionally Registered Teachers Mentoring Program
Type of funding	Grant funding
Administration	The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) is responsible for administering the grants program.

* See *Who can apply* below for full eligibility requirements.

Grant Funding key dates

Applications open	Monday 7 September 2026
Applications assessed	Monday 7 September 2026 – Friday 23 July 2027 (Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis on receipt of completed applications)
Applications close	Friday 23 July 2027
Notification of outcomes, and grant agreements sent to providers	7 September 2026 – Friday 27 August 2027 (Grant agreements will be offered on a rolling basis once assessed)
Grant agreements executed	Within 4 weeks of receipt from the applicant
Payment made	Payments will be made quarterly in arrears based on quarterly program reporting provided by ECA to OECD.



Who can apply for PRT Mentoring Program grants

Eligible applicants are ECEC services that currently employ an ECT who is participating in the PRT Mentoring Program, either as a PRT mentee (mentee) or ECT mentor.

The following services are **not** eligible:

- Department for Education managed sessional preschools
- Family Day Care
- Out of School Hours Care
- Occasional Care and In Home Care services
- ECEC services that do not employ a staff member participating in the PRT Mentoring Program.

Application process

1. Eligible services will be informed by ECA that their staff member has been accepted into the PRT Mentoring Program.
 - ECA will provide information about the relevant role and model the service staff member will undertake within the program, i.e. mentee, low or high support; or ECT mentor.
2. Services will submit a short online OECD application form, by identifying:
 - which role and model the service staff member will undertake within the program, as advised by ECA
 - which tranche of the PRT Mentoring Program the staff member will be participating in
 - other information necessary for the grant agreement.

On average, the application should take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete.

3. The OECD will assess submissions and prepare a grant agreement for successful applicants.
 - ECA will provide OECD with details of program participants including confirmation of acceptance into the program. This information will form the basis of OECD's assessment of submissions.

Funding conditions for grant recipients

If successful, the organisation listed as the applicant will be responsible for receiving and managing the grant funds and all grant reporting and acquittal obligations.

Grant funds will be provided through a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI).

Payment of grants will be made in accordance with the payment schedule included in the grant agreement.

Grant recipients must provide an acquittal form with supporting evidence, as per the funding agreement, by 31 August of the relevant year their staff member has completed participation in the PRT Mentoring Program. This will be short and simple.

You must accept responsibility for any costs exceeding the agreed funding amount or unforeseen expenditure. No additional grant funding will be provided.



Support for services

Further information and support is available through:

- [Early Childhood Australia - PRT Mentoring Program](#)
- [OECD website – PRT Mentoring Program](#)
- Your OECD Local Team
- OECD.ECWorkforce@sa.gov.au

