

Flying Start Partnership Plan

What you need to do

The **Flying Start Partnership Plan** is built around 3 service priorities that have the greatest impact on children's learning, development and wellbeing:

Priority 1 - Warm and welcoming

Priority 2 - Committed to quality

Priority 3 - Acting early, with others

The Partnership Plan is structured to help you think strategically about how you can strengthen practices across these 3 priorities; so your chosen focus and funding will best support children's outcomes.

Use this placemat to help complete your Partnership Plan. **Your OECD Local Team will support you.**

Stage 1

Understand your needs

- ▶ Review available data and evidence to build a shared understanding of your service's children, families and community and identify your services strengths and areas for improvement.
- ▶ Draw on relevant sources such as Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) data, enrolment and attendance patterns, feedback and lived experience from children and families, your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) and information about team capability.
- ▶ If your service is part of a larger Provider, engage early to capture any strategic directions that may need to be considered and to discuss their involvement in the development of your plan.

By the end of this stage you should...

- ▶ have key strengths and challenges identified
- ▶ understand areas that require improvement
- ▶ have contacted your provider to identify an agreed process to develop and finalise the plan.

Stage 2

Develop your goals

- ▶ Use the available evidence to identify the most important areas for improvement.
- ▶ Define what you want to achieve and how you will know that meaningful change has occurred.
- ▶ Develop goals for all your funded priority areas that work together to help meet your objectives.
- ▶ You can have more than one goal per NQF standard or AEDC domain - they should align with your identified needs.

By the end of this stage you should...

- ▶ have developed goals for each of the funded priorities and determined the outcomes you are intending to achieve.

Stage 3

Identify your actions

- ▶ Identify the practical actions your service will take to achieve its goals and how partnership funding will support their successful implementation.
- ▶ Contact potential suppliers to get service quotes.
- ▶ Make tentative bookings with service suppliers where possible.

By the end of this stage you should...

- ▶ have identified actions for your funded priorities and allocated your funding
- ▶ have made provisional bookings with suppliers. These can be confirmed once your Partnership Plan has been approved.

Stage 4

Plan for implementation

- ▶ Make a plan to implement the actions by identifying responsibilities, timeframes, required resources, and how progress will be monitored.
- ▶ Ensure everyone involved understands their role and that partnership funding is used in accordance with the approved plan and relevant guidelines.
- ▶ Consider how the collective actions contribute to the intended goals, how they will be embedded into practice, and will collectively improve outcomes for children and families.

By the end of this stage you should...

- ▶ have completed the implementation planning pages of the Partnership Plan (pages 11, 15 and 19).

Stage 5

Internal approvals and submit your plan

- ▶ Before submission, review the plan with everyone who needs to contribute to or endorse it, including your Provider.
- ▶ Check that it presents a clear line of sight between the evidence, identified needs, goals, intended outcomes, actions and use of funding.
- ▶ The OECD Local Team will review the submitted plan and may seek further information or work with the service to refine it.
- ▶ Once all requirements are met and relevant endorsements have been obtained, the OECD Local Team Regional Manager will provide final approval.

By the end of this stage you should...

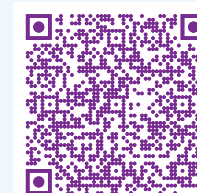
- ▶ have completed the Partnership Plan and received approval from your provider
- ▶ have emailed your plan to your OECD Local Team for approval by 1 November 2026.

Remember...

- ▶ Your funding amounts are included in your Flying Start Partnership Plan.
- ▶ Check the **2027 Policy and Funding Guide** for more information about each funded program stream and the associated spending rules.
- ▶ Check the **Partner Portal** for more supporting documents and guidance. Use the factsheets to help you complete each stage of the plan.



2027 Policy and
Funding Guide



Partner
Portal

How to complete the plan

Stage 1

Understand your needs

Things to consider

- ▶ Helpful sources of information include:
 - enrolment and attendance data
 - AEDC data
 - Quality Improvement Plan
 - NQS Assessment and Rating
 - 2026 Targeted Support Plan (Preschool Boost)
 - family feedback
 - educator observations
 - enrolment and attendance data
 - local knowledge
 - self-assessment.
- ▶ What does your attendance and/or enrolment data tell you about the children and families you're trying to support?
- ▶ Are there particular groups, barriers or trends that stand out?
- ▶ What areas need focus?
- ▶ Make your needs as specific as possible

Helpful tips

- ▶ Look at other data sources like child support plans or family feedback to build a more complete picture of your community.
- ▶ Discuss the data and other observations with your team.
- ▶ Strong service improvement is achieved when multiple sources of evidence work together.
- ▶ There can be more than one need per NQF Standard and AEDC domain.

Stage 2

Develop your goals

Things to consider

- ▶ Your goals are about the specific capabilities or ways of working that need to be stronger or more consistent in your service to respond to your identified needs and lift child outcomes.
- ▶ What does the evidence tell you about the changes that would make the biggest impact on those needs?
- ▶ You will need to prioritise what you are going to focus on this year versus future years.
- ▶ What signs will you see in your service and in your children if you are achieving - or on your way to achieving - this goal?
- ▶ This is not about what the change is or how you will make this change - that is in the next steps.
- ▶ Goals should describe the change you are seeking to achieve in responding to an identified need.
- ▶ Goals should be informed by evidence, aligned to the relevant priority area and achievable within the planning period.

Helpful tips

- ▶ If your service is part of a larger Provider, make sure they are included to understand and align goals to their broader strategic vision.
- ▶ Consider using the SMART framework to set your goals.
- ▶ **Aim to complete your goals by the end of August 2026.**

Stage 3

Identify your actions

Things to consider

- ▶ Actions should clearly describe how your service will use the funding streams and supports to drive your goals.
A good action:
 - contributes directly to achieving the goal
 - can realistically be completed
 - uses available funding appropriately
 - can be monitored throughout the year
- ▶ You can have more than one action per goal.
- ▶ Pooling Preschool Boost funds with other services can help to share costs.
- ▶ Explore with potential suppliers how their support aligns with your goal in more detail and any implementation requirements that you may need to plan for. Include any travel or accommodation in planning as these form part of your overall costs.
- ▶ Clarify the amount of educator release time and backfill needed so that planned expenditure remains within the backfill spending cap.

Helpful tips

- ▶ Focus on quality rather than quantity. A small number of well-planned actions are likely to have greater impact than a long list of activities.
- ▶ Select complementary actions that work together.
- ▶ Make sure you follow the relevant funding guidelines and parameters.
- ▶ If you have identified any off-menu Preschool Boost items, make sure you seek approval from your Local Team before including this in your Partnership Plan.

Stage 4

Plan for implementation

Things to consider

- ▶ Identify other activities that you will implement to support and sustain improvement.
- ▶ Be specific about who will do what, by when, and what support or resources they will need.
- ▶ Break larger actions into manageable steps and identify how you will monitor progress along the way.
- ▶ Based on the evidence, what specific improvements are you hoping to see by the end of this plan?
- ▶ What will you measure or monitor to know you've been successful?
- ▶ When will you review progress?

Helpful tips

- ▶ Each action and funding item should clearly connect to an identified need, goal and intended outcome.
- ▶ If that connection is difficult to explain, reconsider whether the action belongs in the plan.
- ▶ **Aim to complete the planning by the end of September 2026.**

Stage 5

Internal approvals and submit your plan

Things to consider

- ▶ A Partnership Plan does not need to be perfect; however, it should provide sufficient data that funding has been strategically planned and that proposed actions are likely to contribute to your service's identified goals.
- ▶ A Partnership Plan should demonstrate that your service has:
 - reflected on available data
 - identified meaningful priorities for improvement
 - aligned funding to those priorities
 - proposed achievable actions
 - identified how success will be measured.

Helpful tips

- ▶ If applicable, make sure you check with your provider at the start so that there is enough time for any internal approval processes you may need to undertake before submission.