

Flying Start for kids

Information Session for
Preschool Plus Partner Services



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.





Today's session will provide an overview of:

- The Preschool Plus program
- Outreach support and how to provide the most benefit for families
- Fee relief for eligible program participants
- How to access the free Trauma Informed Practice coaching program



Leading the way for positive change

Preschool Plus is vital in delivering targeted early intervention and learning support to children who have the most to gain. It is about more than just a preschool place: it is about quality, tailored support for every eligible child and their family.

Preschool Plus partner services and referring agencies play a pivotal role in helping drive meaningful change in our communities. The OECD will work closely with Preschool Plus partner services to successfully deliver the program.



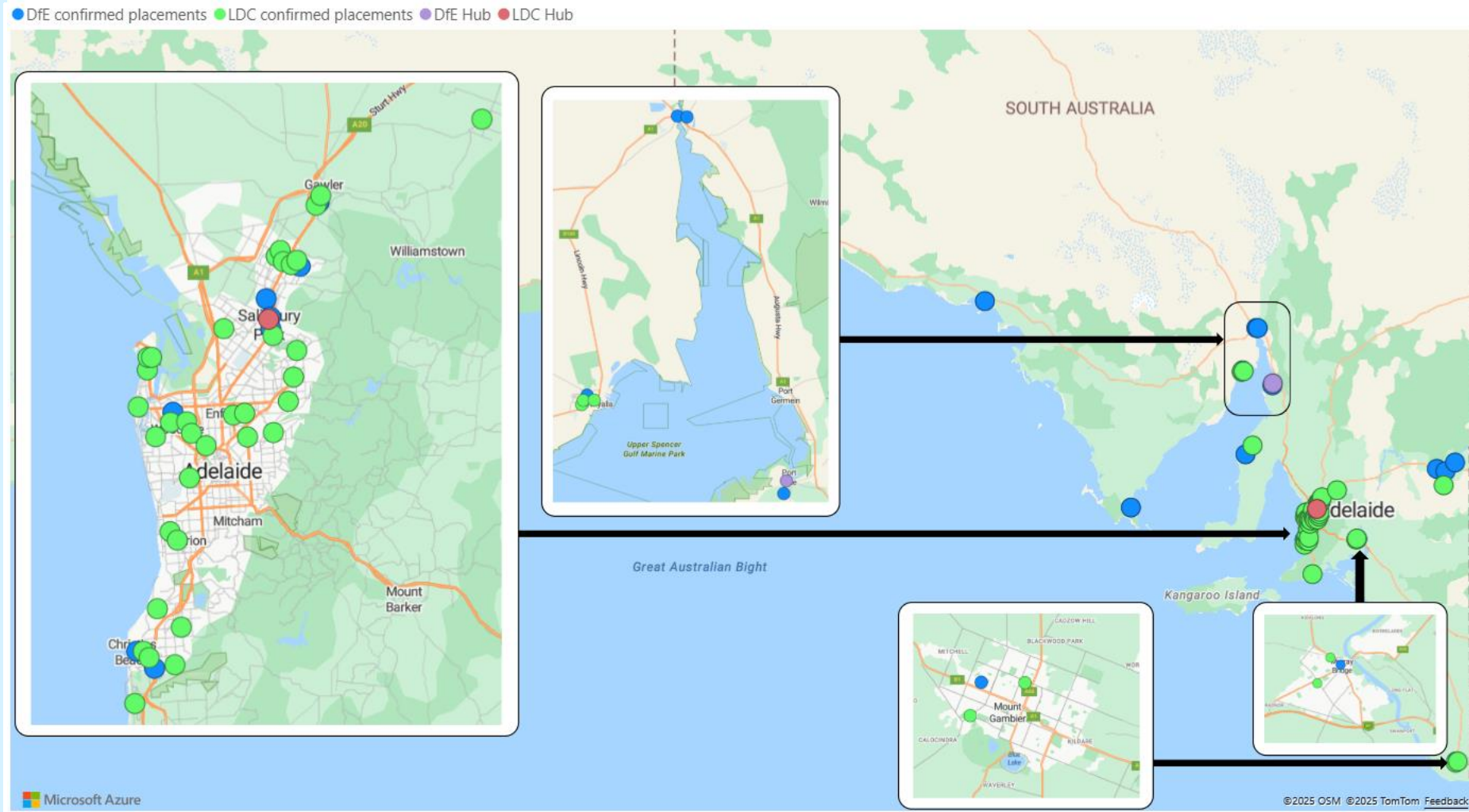
Children enrolled in Preschool Plus

- **Up to 200 enrolments** in integrated hubs and partner services.
- The children that have accepted enrolments in non-hub Preschool Plus places were referred by Department of Human Services and Department for Child Protection.
- What we know about the 2026 cohort:
 - **47%** of enrolled children identify as **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander**.
 - **56%** of enrolled children are **living in out of home care**.
 - **68** enrolled children were **already attending** early childhood education and care. **31** enrolled children **moved services to** take up a Preschool Plus place.





Distribution of Preschool Plus placements



64 Preschool Plus places distributed across **44 Partner Services**

33 Preschool Plus places distributed across **20 DfE sites**

40 Preschool Plus places in the Goodstart Elizabeth Vale Integrated Hub

40 Preschool Plus places in the Port Pirie West Children's Centre Integrated Hub

Funding and resources available

- Preschool Plus partner services will receive **additional funding** including:
 - Double the universal preschool, teaching and learning allocation at SEIFA 1 rate
 - **Outreach funding** per Preschool Plus enrolment to alleviate indirect costs for families (e.g. provide assistance with transport, meals)
 - Additional **Preschool Boost** funding for more developmental supports
 - **Fee relief for eligible families** to reduce out of pocket costs.
- Preschool Plus partner services will also receive **coaching and support**:
 - Free trauma-informed practice coaching, and
 - Support from referring agencies to work with and engage families.



Your role in supporting families Commencing Preschool Plus

- **Build excitement** about starting preschool and the Preschool Plus program.
- Assist families to **understand CCS, ACCS, Preschool Plus fee relief**, their eligibility and any potential out-of-pocket costs.
- Conduct a **Preschool Plus family meeting** to identify supports for the child and family, and assist with outreach support planning.
- Support families to **feel welcomed and prepared** for first day of Preschool.



Your ongoing role in supporting families

- Encourage families to **access/complete their milestone Child Health Development Checks** with CaFHS or another provider (eg GP, ACCHO).
- Use Preschool Plus Outreach funding to support families to address any barriers to attending.
- Use a range of opportunities to **informally check in** with the family.
- Support families with **ongoing attendance and engagement**.



Support from referring agencies

Referring agencies can support to enable successful engagement for children and families.

Key supports provided by referring agencies

- **Information sharing (in line with Information Sharing Guidelines):** Clear communication about family needs, cultural considerations and any risk factors.
- **Collaboration and coordination:** Joint planning and decision making between agencies, services to support inclusion, access and participation.
- **Access to resources:** Linking families to health, housing and social supports that complement education and care.

If the referring practitioner cannot be reached email the relevant agency for assistance:

Email the relevant agency for assistance:

- Department for Child Protection: DCPPreschoolPlus@sa.gov.au
- Department of Human Services: DHS.PreschoolPlus@sa.gov.au

If you do not know the referring agency:

Contact the OECD Local Teams: OECD.LocalTeams@sa.gov.au



Preschool Plus fee relief for families

RECAP

Preschool Plus fee relief is designed to support affordability and access to eligible families with reducing out-of-pocket costs, when their child is enrolled in the Preschool Plus program in a long day care service.

Preschool Plus children may be eligible for fee relief if:

- the gross family annual income is below \$133,280 (amount subject to indexation) i.e. 80% CCS subsidy rate
- they are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy (CCS)
- their out-of-pocket costs are not already covered by the Additional Child Care Subsidy (ACCS) or other funding; and
- they maintain eligibility for the Preschool Plus program



Preschool Plus fee relief calculator

RECAP

- A Preschool Plus fee relief calculator and guidance document are available to support partner providers and their services calculate the total **Preschool Plus fee relief amount families are eligible for**.
- The calculator is designed to support conversations with referring agencies and families, by **estimating the indicative out-of-pocket costs payable** for each eligible Preschool Plus enrolment.
- The guidance document will ensure that services have all necessary information prior to having conversations with families.
- Partner services will be **required to submit the Preschool Plus fee relief calculator** as per data submission requirements outlined in the Policy and Funding Guide.
- The **calculator and guidance** document can be accessed on the **Flying Start Partner Page of the OECD website under *Preschool Plus***.

Preschool Plus Outreach funding details and scope

Partner services:

- **Funding details:** \$1,700 per Preschool Plus enrolment, paid quarterly.
- **Funding expenditure:** Funding must be spent directly towards the child and their family enrolled in Preschool Plus.
- **Scope:** Indirect cost reduction supports for Preschool Plus program participants only (e.g. food, transport, clothing).
- **Approved Outreach plan required:** No, although a level of planning is expected to inform appropriate expenditure.
- **Outreach reporting:**
 - Expenditure details must be reported annually.
 - Feedback on the effectiveness of Outreach services is required to inform future service design.

Integrated Hubs:

- Have a bigger envelope of funding and can purchase resources at a service level rather than for individual children (e.g. a clothing rack with spare clothes for the preschool room).
- Are required to have an approved Outreach plan (Part B of the OECD Targeted Support Plan), for components that can be planned only, with flexible forward funding.
- Are expected to spend some of their outreach funds on community connection.

Preschool Plus Outreach funding to support program participation



Outreach funding can be **used in flexible ways to support attendance and build engagement with Preschool Plus families**, depending on their individual needs.

Partner services offering Preschool Plus will:

- receive \$1,700 per Preschool Plus enrolment
- meet with preschool Plus families with a welcoming and inclusive approach to learn about how Outreach might best support them
- decide how best to use their Outreach funding to support program participation and how much to reserve for responsive spending
- Spending must be in line with spending rules outlined in the [Policy and Funding Guide](#).

Develop and strengthen your understanding of a family's needs by talking to them and finding out what would make it easier to attend preschool.



Nutrition

Spending rule: Funding may be used to reduce food insecurity for families

Examples include:

- Pre-made meals or snacks for families to take home.
- Meals or snacks for children to consume during the program, beyond what's already provided or in the absence of food provision.
- Food vouchers or grocery gift cards, used sparingly.

Transport

Spending rule: Funding may be used to assist families in overcoming transportation barriers

Examples include:

- MetroCARD top up or public transport tickets.
- Taxi payment for parents who need to travel for urgent matters where there is a connection to early childhood needs, or it is overcoming a barrier to preschool attendance.
- Items to support regular active travel to preschool, for example helmets, bikes, scooters, strollers.
- Wet weather items to enable active travel to preschool during rain, for example umbrellas, pram cover, gum boots, rain jackets.

Clothing and essential items

Spending rule: Funding may be used to provide essential items so children can fully participate in and attend preschool

Examples include:

- Clothing such as pants, tops, jumpers, shoes and hats
- Backpacks containing essential daily supplies
- Preschool items such as lunchboxes and drink bottles
- A welcome kit with appropriate supplies
- Nappies for families who need them

Spending restrictions

Preschool Plus Outreach funding must not be used for:

- Cash provision directly to families
- Support for individual children not participating in the Preschool Plus program
- Items already funded through other funding streams (e.g. meal provision during preschool if your service already routinely provides this)
- Anything outside of the Policy and Funding Guide without approval by the OECD Local Teams.
- Staff pay in a service, except for minor allowance for administration time.

Core training

- All Flying Start partner services will have access to foundational Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Trauma-informed Practice training which is **centrally funded and freely available**
- Training is mandatory for educators in funded preschool rooms and staff engaging directly with preschool families and **strongly recommended for all staff**. Backfill funding is available for mandated staff.

Aboriginal Cultural Safety (ACS) training:

- Focuses on the 'Knowing' level (foundational) of the Knowing, Being Doing Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training Content framework
- Available in person early 2026, with an online version launching on Plink later in 2026
- Services will be able to choose their ACS provider via the Preschool Boost menu

Trauma-informed Practice training:

- Will build a **shared understanding and practical strategies** to support the increasingly complex needs of children and families
- A 2-part online training module will be available on Plink from March 2026



Preschool Plus coaching support for Trauma-informed Practice

- Preschool Plus services can access **optional, additional coaching and implementation supports**
- The coaching framework is being developed and delivered by Connect.Ed, a South Australian based multi-disciplinary provider
- Connect.Ed will co-design a **tailored package of up to five sessions** with each service to:
 - Build educator confidence
 - Apply trauma-informed strategies in everyday practice and
 - Support whole-service change
- Staff should undertake the online foundation modules before commencing the coaching program
- Preschool Plus services will receive information in March 2026 about how to opt-in for coaching supports at no cost



Supporting Preschool Plus children to access Child Health & Development Checks



The OECD is partnering with CaFHS and other service providers to increase frequency and access to free Child Health and Development Checks (CHDCs).

Ways to support families and children:

- Ensure all Preschool Plus children and families have access to or are encouraged to complete their **free** milestone CHDC at your site, if available. CHDCs are delivered through CaFHS and other providers.
- **Encourage and support families to download** the Early Years SA app to receive CHDC reminders and access to trusted information about child health, learning, development and wellbeing.



Preschool Plus

Five-year research project: University of Adelaide

This evaluation represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rigorously assess whether more preschool hours from age 3, can transform children's developmental outcomes and close the equity gap before school entry. - Belinda Hutchinson, Chair, Eureka Benevolent Foundation.

- Five-year research project with the University of Adelaide studying the implementation and impacts of the program on parents, children and providers.
- Examine whether children who stand to benefit most from additional preschool hours show gains in areas such as child development, academic achievement, wellbeing and beyond.
- Unlike typical evaluations, the real time learnings will inform how the program is delivered to give children the best opportunity to thrive.
- The evaluation team from the University of Adelaide may contact your service and families whose children will participate in the Preschool Plus program next year to explain how they can be involved in the evaluation.

OFFICIAL



Any questions?



Government of
South Australia

Flying Start
for kids



Local Teams

are here to help

Your OECD Local Teams are available to provide you with further support or to answer questions as you begin to work with families.

Questions may also be directed to:

- Preschool Plus: oecd.preschoolplus@sa.gov.au
- Outreach: oecd.outreach@sa.gov.au
- Preschool Plus Fee Relief: oecd.preschoolfunding@sa.gov.au

Additional resources

- Preschool Plus and Outreach resources can be found on the Officer for Childhood Development website under the [Flying Start Partner Page](#).



Next steps

- Conduct **Preschool Plus family meetings** to identify supports for the child and family, and assist with outreach support planning
- Support families to **access relevant funding** including fee relief
- Support families to feel **welcomed and prepared** for first day of Preschool Plus
- **Encourage families** to access and complete their milestone Child Health Development Checks.
- Liaise with your **Local Team** if you need support
- Engage with **referring agency** if difficulties with connection after repeated contact attempts for unexplained non-attendance

