

MEDIA RELEASE

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BACKING OUR KIDS: \$435 MILLION INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The NSW Government is investing \$435 million on our youngest learners in the 2017-18 Budget - a \$47 million increase on last year, NSW Early Childhood Education and Aboriginal Affairs Minister Sarah Mitchell said today.

The Budget includes an additional \$217 million over four years for the successful Start Strong reforms, ensuring all NSW children have access to 600 hours of preschool before they start school.

Early Childhood Education investment in this year's budget includes:

- \$30 million in continued funding to enhance participation and educational outcomes in early childhood education for children with disabilities
- A \$10 million capital works grant program to create up to 700 new preschool places in areas of highest demand
- \$200,000 for Rural and Remote Early Childhood Teaching Scholarship programs that help educators in preschools and long day care services upgrade their qualifications
- Additional funding to support two years of preschool education for children in Aboriginal or disadvantaged families

"The success of a child's education on their last day of school is determined by their very first day of school, and this budget builds on the momentum of this Government's historic investment in our kids," Mrs Mitchell said.

The NSW Government will also spend \$49 million in the 2017-18 Budget for a range of Aboriginal Affairs initiatives.

"We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal communities to support Australia's first people achieve their aspirations for intergenerational healing, cultural revival and economic prosperity and this budget ensures Aboriginal communities remain at the heart of decision making," Mrs Mitchell said.

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