



Government response to the Brennan Review

Summary of recommendations

- 1 Additional investment needed.
- 2 Secure Commonwealth funding.
- 3 Clear principles for funding – quality, equity, transparency, stability, accountability, value for money and a basis in evidence.
- 4 Clear funding priorities in line with NSW 2021 and the National Partnership Agreement .
- 5 Priority in funding for children in their year prior to school, planned and delivered by a qualified early childhood education teacher.
- 6 Alignment of funding with State Plan targets.
- 7 Funding for early childhood education for all children, across service types.
- 8 An entitlement to preschool for all year prior to school children backed by government funding.
- 9 Service funding linked to high quality, accessible and affordable ECEC delivery.
- 10 A 'quality mark' label for high quality services that they can use to promote their business.
- 11 Free or near to free preschool access for all children from low-income families.

Government response

Recommendations 1- 6 supported.

The Government supports the principles of quality, equity, transparency, stability, accountability, value for money and a basis in evidence. The Government will develop a new preschool Resource Allocation Model (RAM) that aligns with the recommendations and funding principles of the Brennan report, and the objectives of the State Plan and National Partnership.

The sector will be consulted on the detail of this new approach.

Supported.

The Government will ensure that the State Plan 2021 target that all children have access to a quality early childhood program in the 12 months prior to formal schooling is met regardless of service type.

Supported.

The NSW Government will implement a new funding system linked to quality, accessibility and affordability.

Not supported.

The new national regulatory system for early childhood education and care already provides this kind of quality assurance for the community.

Supported.

The new RAM will prioritise support to children from the most disadvantaged families, including Indigenous children and those from families with low incomes.

Summary of recommendations

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- 12 Preschool subsidies to be scaled as far as possible to the individual circumstances of each household.
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- 13 Additional funding for disadvantaged children and those with special needs.
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- 14 Preschool funding for disadvantaged 3 year olds.
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- 15 Review the Intervention Support Program and the Supporting Children with Additional Needs programs to ensure better targeting of need.
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- 16 Streamlined reporting for services and development of a unique child identifier.
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- 17 Replacement of Service Specifications and Agreements with a simpler annual process.
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- 18 Publication of service fees and charges using guidelines or a template provided by the Department.
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- 19 The NSW Government to work with other jurisdictions to explore expanding information about services on the My Child website.
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- 20 Conduct a trial of cluster management.
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- 21 Contracting of services and organisations providing ECE in remote and regional locations.
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- 22 Schools in remote communities to function as 'hubs' for the delivery of services such as early childhood, or in a way that makes the best use of existing school infrastructure.

Government response

- Supported.
- The new funding model will deliver the highest subsidies for children enrolled at preschools in the most disadvantaged areas, based on the ABS measure the Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) of the suburb where each service is located. This will provide for more stable funding each year and reduce the administrative burden for services.
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- Supported.
- The Department will review these programs in consultation with the sector so that appropriate changes can be introduced in the 2014 calendar year.
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- Supported.
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- Supported.
- The Department of Education and Communities will review these programs in consultation with the sector so that appropriate program changes can be introduced in 2014.
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- Supported.
- National commitments for the development of a unique child identifier for early childhood enrolments will shape the capacity for implementation.
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- Supported.
- Services' compliance with the terms of contracts will be audited as part of the grants management process and in line with best-practice approaches.
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- Not supported.
- Services already publish this type of information and will have the flexibility to present information as needed.
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- Partially supported.
- The Government will consult with the sector regarding support for this proposal before deciding whether to progress it with the Commonwealth.
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- Supported.
- The Government has announced a trial of clustering approaches starting in 2013.
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- Supported.
- The new funding system will include a provision for additional funding to recognise the needs of services operating in remote communities.
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- Supported.
- The Government will ensure that early childhood education and care services are included in the Connected Communities initiative.

Summary of recommendations

- 23 Development of a transport scheme to help disadvantaged families and children with disabilities access ECE.
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- 24 Support for early childhood educators to upgrade their qualifications to bachelor degree level, and for primary school teachers to gain ECE qualifications.
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- 25 The State should engage with peak teaching bodies, including the NSW Institute of Teachers and the Australian Institute of Teaching and School Leadership to encourage the supply of early childhood teachers.
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- 26 The Department of Education and Communities should conduct an analysis of the cost of its preschool provision, and consider focusing its effort on meeting needs in the most disadvantaged communities.
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- 27 A capital funding program for not-for-profit services in areas of high demand for preschool places for children in the year before school.
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- 28 The Government to request the Commonwealth to broaden tax deductible status to include donations to ECE services.
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- 29 A 'transition to school statement' to improve communication between services, parents and schools to be developed.
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- 30 The Department to establish a standing consultative forum of key stakeholders.

Government response

Partially supported.

The early childhood education component of the Connected Communities initiative will include funding for outreach. This will primarily involve supporting services to provide transport for children in outlying locations.

Supported.

The Government will introduce Scholarships for up to 100 early childhood educators to upgrade their qualifications from Diploma to undergraduate degree-level in 2013.

Supported.

In line with the directions of Great Teaching, Inspired Learning, the Government will collaborate with national agencies on measures to encourage the supply of qualified teachers.

Supported.

Supported.

The Government will provide a capital injection of \$5M prioritised to assist areas of undersupply.

Supported.

The NSW Government will request the Commonwealth to broaden deductible gift recipient status to all early childhood education and care services.

Supported.

The Government has announced the development and trialling of a transition to school statement in 2013.

Supported.

The Department of Education and Communities will review current consultative forums.