



# Early Education and Care Commission

The Australian Government will work with the states and territories to consider the potential development of a national Early Education and Care Commission (a Commission) to strengthen the early education and care system.

## How will it work?

Last year the Australian Government announced a \$226 million package of reforms to improve safety and standards across the sector, to be delivered in collaboration with states and territories.

This included establishing a new National Early Childhood Worker Register, mandatory child safety training for educators, a national CCTV trial in centres, more compliance officers doing unannounced spot checks and banning personal devices in centres.

A Commission is the next possible step to strengthen the early education and care system.

A Commission could help guide the path to universal early education and care, playing a role in ensuring services are located where families need them. It could also involve reforming the existing Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

The design of a potential Commission is subject to consultation and will be discussed at the Education Ministers Meeting in July.

## Why is it important and who will benefit?

Establishing a Commission was a key recommendation of the Productivity Commission in its 2024 report outlining a path to universal early childhood education.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission also recommended market stewardship be explored by governments in its 2023 inquiry into the market for the supply of child care services.

Given the crucial role of early education and care in supporting children's development, enabling labour force participation, improving gender equity, and supporting economic growth, it is timely to consider the potential benefits and options for establishing a national Commission.