



National Early Childhood Worker Register

The Australian Government will invest a further \$17.6 million to enhance and expand the functionality of the National Early Childhood Worker Register (National Register).

How will it work?

The National Register launched on 27 February 2026 as part of the Australian Government's \$226 million package of safety reforms to early childhood education and care (ECEC).

It is now mandatory for ECEC providers approved under National Law to have entered their workforce information into the National Register.

Approved providers must also update the National Register within 14 days of when someone is employed, leaves, or when the provider becomes aware of a change to other relevant information about an employee, otherwise they risk a fine of up to \$34,200.

Information about ECEC workers that is currently captured in the register includes identifying information such as name, date of birth, role at the service, qualifications and training and working with children check (or equivalent).

The Government's investment will support additional functionality, including identity verification, integration with the Family Day Care register, and other system enhancements to help approved providers use the Worker Register.

Why is it important?

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of every child in ECEC is a shared national priority.

As work continues towards a universal ECEC system, it is imperative that the safety and protection of children attending ECEC remains the highest priority.

Who will benefit?

The safety and protection of children attending ECEC is paramount.

ECEC plays a critical role in supporting children's development, enabling labour force participation, improving gender equity, and supporting economic growth.

How much will it cost?

The Australian Government will release a further \$17.6 million from the \$45 million allocated to support enhancements to the National Early Childhood Worker Register.