Minister for Early Childhood Education
Minister for Youth

Attachment B: Election Commitments

State/Territory	Location	Funding Stream	Funding Allocation
s 22			
Western Australia	s 22		
	Mukinbudin	FFA – Election Commitment	$5 million
	Total Western Australia Commitments:		**$15 million**

Minister for Early Childhood Education
Minister for Youth

Attachment L: Election Commitments

State/Territory	Location	Funding Stream	Funding Allocation
s 22			
Western Australia	s 22		
	Mukinbudin	FFA – Election Commitment	$5 million
	Total Western Australia Commitments:		**$15 million**

BACK POCKET BRIEF - 02

2026 – 2027 Budget Estimates

Issue: **Building Early Education Fund (the Building Fund) - Federation Funding Arrangements (FFAs)**

Contact: s 22

Director

s 22

s 22

s 22

Project specific

s 22

WA Council engagements

- s 22
- The Department last met with the Shire of Mukinbudin in October 2025.

s 22

From: Tanika McLennan
To:
Cc: Isma, Ezra (Sen F. Payman)
Subject: Re: Mukinbudin ECEC service election commitment [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 16 July 2026 4:26:55 PM
Attachments: fb-icon_b83fb89c-e4d1-4f4e-8997-82de0a73b714.png
rsz_instagram_icon_a21ffa81-dcda-4452-91c8-a1a3067a5d37.png
logo_d515e9f0-52ab-4f86-89fd-bde34fd4dc5c.png

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Hi

Following our meeting late last year you undertook to investigate whether the $5m which has been allocated to Mukinbudin for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) could be used to provide staff housing.

I am reaching out as I have not had any further correspondence from your department and I have again been contacted by our local childcare service, REED, looking for housing for their staff. The Shire already supplies one house for their Manager but has no additional housing available and a substantial wait list. REED are unable to fill the roles without housing.

I am aware that Senator Payman raised this matter at the Senate Estimates hearing earlier this year however the questions about housing were redirected and not answered.

Could you please give me an update on how the government intends to spend the $5 million and whether housing is included.

Once again I am more than happy to assist on the ground in any way I can.

Regards,

Tanika McLennan
Chief Executive Officer

T: (08) 9047 2100 **M:** 0428 471 102
E: ceo@mukinbudin.wa.gov.au
15 Maddock Street, Mukinbudin WA 6479

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From:
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2025 3:25 PM
To: Tanika McLennan <ceo@mukinbudin.wa.gov.au>
Cc:

Subject: Mukinbudin ECEC service election commitment [SEC=OFFICIAL]

> You don't often get email from . Learn why this is important

Good afternoon Tanika

I am reaching out because Regional Development Australia Director, Josh Pomykala, passed on your details to Senator the Hon Dr Jess Walsh, Minister for Early Childhood Education, regarding the Australian Government's election commitment of up to $5 million for a new early childhood education and care (ECEC) service in Mukinbudin.

The Building Early Education Taskforce is working closely with State and Territory governments, including the Western Australian government to implement this, and similar commitments made by the Australian Government.

The Taskforce is keen to meet with the Mukinbudin Shire Council, either yourself or an appropriate representative. Please advise me if any of the below times are suitable for a teams meeting to discuss the commitment.

At this stage I can offer:

- Tuesday, 21 October | 1:00-2:00 PM AEDT;
- Wednesday, 22 October | 4:00-5:00 PM AEDT; or
- Friday, 24 October | 2:00-3:00 PM AEDT

Kind regards

Federation Funding Agreement Negotiations | Building Early Education Fund Taskforce
Australian Government Department of Education
Mobile

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From: s 22
To:
Cc: EDUC - BEEF Taskforce; COTCHING,Heather; s 22
Subject: RE: Draft FFA for WA consideration [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Thursday, 16 April 2026 9:56:00 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks s 22

You will see I have gone back tc[s 47F(1)] to clarify timings as I will need to include that in Nathan's email.

s 22
s 47F(1) o Nathan Smyth
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood and Youth
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone s 22 | Mobile s 22
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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s 22

s 22

s 22

s 22

s 22

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

The FFA provides flexibility to accommodate ~~enables~~ variations and future update~~s~~ ~~ing~~.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss any aspect of the draft or next steps. We remain keen to resolve the agreement as efficiently as possible.

Kind Regards,

Nathan

s 22

From:
To:
Cc: s 22 ; COTCHING,Heather; s 22
Subject: RE: FFA meeting request & draft Schedules - for action 24/3 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 24 March 2026 10:39:18 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22

Thank you for following up on those availabilities! I'll book that in as soon as you are able to send times through.
s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

Great to hear you will take a look at those without-prejudice draft Schedules. We are more than happy for them to be shared with your central agencies so they have opportunities to propose necessary edits.
Kind regards.

s 22
s 47F(1)
Federation Funding Agreement Negotiations
Building Early Education Fund Taskforce
Australian Government Department of Education
Working on Woiwurrung Country
Phone s 22

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OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22
Sent: Monday, 23 March 2026 7:22 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22 COTCHING,Heather <Heather.Cotching@education.gov.au>; s 22 s 22
Subject: RE: FFA meeting request & draft Schedules - for action 24/3 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

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OFFICIAL Sensitive

Hi s 22

Thanks for the notes and I'll get back to you ASAP once I've confirmed with my Education colleagues when they're available.

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

And yes, I've been advised that Min Winton's office is keen for OEC to separately look at Mundaring. We'll come back with a collective WA position that takes account of this additional tasking.

We'll take a look at the draft schedules and work through when we next catch up. I'd also like to share with our centrals so we can move more quickly at the back end – let me know if you have any objections to this.

Cheers,

s 22

OFFICIAL Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

From: s 22

Sent: Monday, 23 March 2026 12:33 PM

To: s 22

Cc: s 22 COTCHING,Heather <Heather.Cotching@education.gov.au>; s 22 s 22

Subject: FFA meeting request & draft Schedules - for action 24/3 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi s 22

Apologies for the rapid follow-up. Please disregard the attachments to my previous email and refer to the draft FFAs attached to this email with today's date.

Thank you for the discussion on Friday, it was very valuable. For our next meeting, we are hoping to set a working-level meetings and set up a weekly cadence.

Can you please let me know **by COB Tuesday** which of the following times is suitable to meet with you and your Department of Education colleagues? I will also book the same time for the following week with a request for people to decline the meeting if the time isn't suitable.

- Wed 25/3 between 12:30pm and 2pm (AWST)
- Thu 26/3 between 10am and 11am or 12pm to 2pm (AWST)
- Fri 27/3 between 11am and 2pm (AWST)

Please find attached the minutes from the meeting on Friday and let us know if you have any comments or edits. Minister Walsh's Office has asked for the following information (captured as actions) to be provided **by COB Wednesday**:

- WA to propose further alternate sites for Mukinbudin, that are closer to Mukinbudin.

s 22

We are also sharing with you without-prejudice 2 drafts of the FFA Schedule for your consideration. We wanted to cover both the scenario where WA's total notional allocation is spent on the election commitments and where there is funding available to add school site projects. Please note the draft FFA Schedule is also being shared with our Treasury department in parallel, which may lead to changes. Both versions have comment comments pointing to where WA's input is needed.

1. **Excl Eligible Projects:** The first attached version is focused on just the 3 election commitments and the Derby Early Learning and Family Centre, which has meant the terms around contingency funding could be entirely removed.
2. **Incl Eligible Projects:** The second version accounts for school sites if we have the opportunity to add these with remaining funding. Contingency funding provisions and a few other terms have been added back to this draft Schedule and are shown in tracked changes.

Please feel free to reach out over phone or email if you would like to discuss any element of the FFA before our next formal catchup. I'm very happy to give quick answers where I can or help troubleshoot.

Kind regards,

s 22
s 47F(1)
Federation Funding Agreement Negotiations
Building Early Education Fund Taskforce
Australian Government Department of Education
Working on Woiwurrung Country
Phone s 22 /s 22

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Please consider the environment before printing out this email.

From: COTCHING,Heather
To: s 47F(1) SMYTH,Nathan
Cc: s 22 s 47F(1) s 47F(1)
CRANE,Kylie
Subject: RE: Follow up from meeting yesterday on WA FFA [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Monday, 23 March 2026 8:12:53 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks s 47F(1) we will follow up with WA this week.
Regards

Heather Cotching
Assistant Secretary

Building Early Education Fund
Australian Government Department of Education
Working on Ngunnawal Country
| Mobile s 47F(1)
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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From: s 47F(1)
Sent: Saturday, 21 March 2026 1:27 PM
To: SMYTH,Nathan ; COTCHING,Heather
Cc: s 22 s 47F(1)
s 47F(1) ; CRANE,Kylie
Subject: RE: Follow up from meeting yesterday on WA FFA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Nathan, Heather and team,
Further to s 47F(1) email yesterday that covered WA, I've had a few conversations with my equivalent in WA over the last 24 hours.
A few updates from our end:

s 22

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

4. Other projects
In addition to the three election commitment sites, WA is also considering other projects.

I'll reconnect with them again on Monday.

I know you will do that It would be helpful if the Department could also follow up directly with WA to maintain momentum on these matters.

I spoke to WA about the need to sign an FFA by mid April. She agreed and we want to work to that as a firm date.
Thanks,
s 47F(1)

s 22

s 22

From: s 47F(1)
To: s 22 s 47F(1)
Cc: s 22
Subject: Re: WA Update [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Thursday, 19 February 2026 6:35:24 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

This security classification and caveat are no longer current

Thanks for the update - s 47F(1) will be catching up with WA counterparts tomorrow so I'm sure there will be further discussions then. Appreciate the additional info. Cheers s 47F(1)

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

From s 22
Sent: Thursday, February 19, 2026 5:55:09 PM
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 22
Subject: WA Update [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

Hi s 47F(1)
We just finished our meeting with WA.

s 47B(a), s 47E(d), s 22

Regards
Nathan Smyth
Deputy Secretary & Senior Responsible Officer
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood Group
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone (02) 6240 8464 | Mobile s 47F(1)
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom
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~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~

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From: s 22
To: SMYTH,Nathan; s 47E(d) ; s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: Convo with s 47F(1) in MO [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 27 January 2026 5:55:21 PM

Hi All

Just had a phone call with s 47F(1) about a few things, just capturing it here so we are all aware of the main points of the discussion and see how some of the election commitments may interact with the grants streams.

s 22

s 22

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

s 22

Cheers

s 22

From: s 47F(1)
To: s 22 ; COTCHING,Heather
Cc: SMYTH,Nathan;s 22
Subject: RE: Notes from WA meeting today [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 8:01:38 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Thanks s 22

This looks like a good summary to me.

s 47F(1)

From: s 22
Sent: Tuesday, 14 April 2026 4:39 PM
To: s 47F(1) ; COTCHING,Heather
Cc: SMYTH,Nathan ; s 22
Subject: Notes from WA meeting today [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi team,

High-level notes from today's meeting: s 22

s 22

s 22

Mukinbudin

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

Please let me know if I've missed anything.
Thanks,

s 22
s 47F(1) to Nathan Smyth
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood Group
Australian Government Department of Education
Phones 22 | Mobile s 22
Email s 22 | s 47E(d)
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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From: s 22
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: s 47F(1) SMYTH,Nathan;s 22
s 22
Subject: Summary of meeting today [SEC=PROTECTED]
Date: Friday, 23 January 2026 12:39:59 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg
Small scale market sounding analysis - Findings.pptx

~~PROTECTED~~

This security classification and caveat are no longer current

Hi all

Summary of our meeting today

Attendees

Department: Nathan Smyth, s 22
s 22

MO:s 47F(1)
s 47F(1)

- Discussed Vic FFA announcement which will be sometime next week, MO is dealing with Loddon consultation and there will be a site visit (timing TBC)
- The MO confirmed Tas FFA announcement will be next week and ACT FFA announcement will be early February
- The department noted we are developing updated webpage content, social media posts etc to align with announcements when made
- The department proposed to discuss the NSW FFA and Sikh Grammar School next week, following a meeting with NSW on Thursday just prior to the weekly MO meeting
- The department proposed to discuss the other remaining states post officials-level meetings. WA is scheduled for next Thursday but is after the weekly MO meeting. The department is still scheduling meetings with Qld and NT.
- The department discussed the Qld FFA and election commitment. The department is looking to finalise the FFA but noted construction timelines would not be as specific as other FFAs ie. monthly timeframes – these would come later (likely April 2026). The department agreed to provide advice to the MO on the proposed approach to the FFA, including Qld advice.
- The department discussed the WA election commitments. The department outlined the options explored for Mukinbudin and

Mundaring. The department noted advice we received from the Mundaring local council late last year which is not aligned with information the MO has received. s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

s 22 . The department agreed to send an email update to the MO following the meeting with WA next Thursday (it is after the weekly MO meeting).

- The department provided a summary of our analysis of the market sounding findings (full slide deck attached).
- The department noted we have been working on options for a bundling approach to funding and the issues we have been working through to inform advice to the Minister. The department will provide an email to the MO with potential options (Tuesday).
- The department noted we have been working with IDAC to shortlist and we are getting probity advice on what level of detail we can share with the MO ahead of providing advice/assessment to the Minister for decision

Thanks

s 22

s 47F(1) Nathan Smyth
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood and Youth
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone s 22 | Mobile s 22
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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~~PROTECTED~~

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From: s 22
To: s 47F(1) ; SMYTH,Nathan; s 22
Subject: Summary of meeting today [SEC=PROTECTED, CAVEAT=SH:CABINET]
Date: Thursday, 23 October 2025 12:07:36 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

~~PROTECTED//CABINET~~ This security classification and caveat are no longer current

Hi all
s 22

The department provided an update on election commitments (ECs).

- Discussed the department's meeting with Mukinbudin in WA – dept to consider other options.

s 47B(a), s 47E(d), s 22

Actions from this meeting

- Dept to consider options for the Mukinbudin EC
- s 22
- s 22
- s 22

s 47B(a), s 47E(d), s 22

Thanks

s 22
s 22
s 47F(1) Nathan Smyth
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood and Youth
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone s 22 | Mobile s 22
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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From: s 22
To: s 47F(1)
Cc: SMYTH,Nathan; s 22

Subject: Weekly BEEF Meeting 29 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026 5:16:10 PM
Attachments: image001.jpg

Good afternoon,

Proposed agenda items for our meeting tomorrow:

s 47B(a), s 47E(d)

- Update on the Large-Scale brief
- Bundling approach (ACCO round)
- IDAC project shortlist

Please let me know if you want to add anything else.

Unfortunately, we also need to move the meeting currently scheduled for Friday 6 February as Nathan will be on leave. Could you please let me know if any of the following options suit on Thursday 5 February:

- Between 10.30am and 2pm
- 3pm - 4pm

Thanks,

s 22
s 47F(1) to Nathan Smyth
Building Early Education Fund
Early Childhood and Youth
Australian Government Department of Education
Phone s 22 | Mobile s 22
Email s 22 s 22
Website | LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | X | Newsroom

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From: s 22
To: COTCHING,Heather
Cc: s 22
Subject: FYI - Centrals consultation on Election Commitments
Date: Monday, 20 April 2026 1:56:00 PM
Attachments:

s 22

Hello,

This might help with the PM&C chat tomorrow – we have consulted PM&C every step of the way on the letter process – including:

- Ran Centrals through a presentation on EC issues on 10 Feb
- Consulted Centrals on the draft PM letter on 6 March
- Provided PM a table of EC issues on 27 March

s 22
s 47F(1)
Building Early Education Fund Taskforce
Australian Government Department of Education
s 22