



Sarah Mitchell

Minister for Early Childhood Education
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Assistant Minister for Education

MEDIA RELEASE

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS FRONT AND CENTRE FOR NSW GOVERNMENT

Early Childhood Educators in NSW will be better supported through a \$6 million package announced today by Minister for Early Childhood Education Sarah Mitchell.

Mrs Mitchell said the NSW Government's 2018 Workforce Strategy is underpinned by a commitment to highlighting the value of early childhood teachers and educators, building capacity with professional development and training and ensuring cultural respect and recognition is embedded in every aspect of workforce practices.

"Early childhood educators play a significant role in our children's daily lives, and they are instrumental in ensuring all kids get the best possible start to their educational journeys," she said.

Four action areas have been identified as priorities:

- The undertaking of a campaign that will promote public awareness of the key role that early childhood educators and teachers play in the education of children
- Supporting the workforce to obtain qualifications and experience through a number of scholarships and other programs.
- Building the skills and capability of the workforce through online training resources, a dedicated professional development portal and regular provision of updates and sharing of best practices.
- Encouraging better workforce stability and reducing the impact of staff turnover through a better induction program to those who are new to the industry and guides and tools to strengthen peer-to-peer networking.

The Workforce Strategy has been developed in consultation with key early childhood education leaders and will build on the sector's strengths to deliver and maintain an even stronger, more highly trained and experienced workforce.

"We consulted closely with key sector stakeholders and identified several common themes, including shortages of qualified staff, work-related stress and limited career progression in the sector," Mrs Mitchell said.

"We are committed to ensuring the early childhood workforce receives the recognition it deserves and is well supported to sustainably meet the needs of children from all backgrounds and their families."

MEDIA: Sally Taylor | 0428 149 40