

1 May 2019

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC
NSW Minister for Education and Minister for Early Childhood Learning
Parliament of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister Mitchell,

**Re: Request clarification on the delay in funding of
3-year-olds enrolled at community preschools beginning 1 January 2019**

On 19 June 2018, the Hon Dominic Perrottet MP as the Treasurer of New South Wales announced the funding of 3 year-olds who are enrolled at community preschools from 1 January 2019 (see <https://www.nsw.gov.au/your-government/the-premier/media-releases-from-the-premier/nsw-the-first-state-to-subsidise-preschool-for-all-three-year-olds/>).

However, following our *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* applications, we have now learned that the funding will be distributed from 1 July 2019 onwards and backdated to 1 January 2019 for eligible children.

The obvious difficulties are as follows:

- (a) community preschools would not be able to provide fee relief during 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019;
- (b) confusion among parents will arise about fees as they are likely to be lower during 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019, but will increase from 1 January 2020 onwards;
- (c) those who enrol from 1 July 2019 because of the cheaper fees are at risk of not benefitting from the curriculum implemented during 1 January 2019 and 30 June 2019; and
- (d) this policy only positively impacts up to 24% of all NSW children who are enrolled in a preschool program.

Most children are enrolled into preschools on the basis of the calendar year and not the financial year. Moreover, all preschools and long daycare services plan and implement their curriculum on calendar years as well.

We would therefore appreciate receiving the NSW Government's clarification and rationale on why such funding is planned for 1 July 2019 onwards, notwithstanding that it will be relying on a census that occurred in March 2019.

We look forward to your response. And thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,



Chiang Lim
CEO

cc The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, NSW Premier
The Hon Dominic Perrottet MP, NSW Treasurer