

6 May 2019

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

Dear Minister Mitchell,

**Re: Request for clarification from the NSW Government on its measure of  
Return on Investment of \$8m of capital works through  
community preschools in 2018**

The Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) NSW applauds the NSW Government for its consistent commitment to assist in increasing the supply of affordable early childhood education and care capacity through community preschools.

Although ACA NSW is not asking for any withdrawal of the NSW Government from such a commitment, we seek your clarification about how you would measure the return of investment of the corresponding taxpayer contributions given.

As you know, the NSW Government has made \$10m available to the community preschool sector each year via the Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program for some time now. In 2018, 17 existing community preschools were successful in receiving about \$8m of the \$10m annual allocation. And an estimated 708 new places are anticipated to have been created. In context, these 708 new places represent 0.002% of the 299,405 already approved number of places.

Would you be able to share with ACA NSW a copy of example report(s) produced by the NSW Department of Education that:

- (a) statistically monitor how many of these newly created places each year become occupied; and
- (b) outline, if any, the Government's policies and expectation(s) on its Return on Investment of taxpayer contributions through the Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program.

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

Yours sincerely,



Chiang Lim  
CEO

encl GIPA-19-041 – List of successful grants and their amounts  
GIPA-19-090 – Number of places estimated to have been created

**Information to be provided**

*In relation to the \$10 million Start Strong Capitals Works Grants Program please provide details of:*

- *The number of providers who were successful*

17

- *Funding amount applied for under the program for each successful application*

\$247,500
\$950,000
\$1,145,000
\$628,689
\$350,000
\$250,909.10
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$550,000
\$500,000
\$500,000
\$330,000
\$889,450
\$450,000
\$266,911.05
\$294,000
\$400,000

Question:

In relation to the 17 providers who submitted successful applications for the \$10 million Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program, please provide the estimated number of additional 600 hour community preschool places to be created as a result of this funding.

Answer:

- 5
- 15
- 16
- 20
- 20
- 22
- 29
- 32
- 40
- 40
- 48
- 50
- 54
- 67
- 70
- 90
- 90
- Total 708