



# Robyn Preston MP

## Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, 30 June 2021

### FREE PRESCHOOL WIN FOR SERVICES AND PARENTS

Free preschool is now a staple for NSW families with funding confirmed in the 2021/22 NSW Budget for community and mobile preschools.

The new Start Strong Free Preschool program will replace the current COVID-19 Free Preschool Funding program that has been supporting families since the beginning of the pandemic.

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government has continued to support families and children over the past two years.

“We have supported our families by reducing the financial pressures on families in Hawkesbury during the pandemic,” Ms Preston said.

“This is a great initiative, I am thrilled to know our government will continue to fund free preschool. This program is supporting more than 45,000 eligible children, keeping our children learning and engaged during some of their most formative years.”

Minister for Education Sarah Mitchell said that early childhood education is a vital part of development and preparation, especially in the two years before school.

“This is a \$150 million investment in our children’s futures, as we know the first 2,000 days of a child’s life are crucial and those who experience the benefit of early childhood education grow up to lead happier, healthier and more productive lives,” Ms Mitchell said.

“This program allows families to save up to \$4,000 per year per child in preschool fees, easing the cost of living pressures and helping families with work life balance.”

We are committed to families; this budget includes \$725 million direct investment into Early Childhood Education to help parents support their children during some of their most important years.

Up to 740 community preschools will benefit from this important investment across the state.

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