



# The Hon Ray Williams MP

---

Member for Castle Hill  
Minister for Multiculturalism and  
Minister for Disability Services

---

## MEDIA RELEASE

---

9 June 2017

### BUDGET BOOST FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE CASTLE HILL ELECTORATE

The State Budget will include crucial support for young families in the Castle Hill electorate with additional funding for community preschools and long day care services, Member for Castle Hill Ray Williams today announced.

Mr Williams said Budget 2017-18 includes an additional \$217 million for the hugely successful Start Strong reforms.

“This investment in the 2017-18 Budget is additional to the initial \$115 million Start Strong commitment, delivering an historic investment in early childhood,” Mr Williams said.

“This is a government that is continuing to back our kids with every single preschool across the Castle Hill area to benefit from this ongoing funding.

“The Liberals & Nationals Government is investing in measures that ease pressure on families, including access to affordable, quality preschool programs across NSW.

“This unprecedented investment means community preschools and long day care services will be funded through to 2021 at these new higher Start Strong levels.

Start Strong links needs-based funding to 600 hours of enrolment in quality education in the year before school to ensure more kids participate.

Since the launch of Start Strong in January this year, more than half of all community preschools in NSW have changed their business model in response to the new funding program.

**Media: June Belkovskis | (02) 8882 9555**