

Media release



8.11.2022

Excellent rating for Goodstart Clayton

Goodstart Early Learning Clayton has joined a small and prestigious list of early learning centres across the nation to be awarded an 'Excellent' rating by the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA).

Centre Director Kashmira (Kash) Naushad Bhathena said "Achieving excellence means so much for the [Goodstart Clayton](#) team, it was the huge achievement for us and the award was the result of hard work and dedication."

Based in South-East Melbourne, the centre has built a reputation for going above and beyond, supporting children and families in early learning but also demonstrating extraordinary community spirit and wrapping around families when times were tough.

"This award has empowered us all and boosted our confidence. The journey does not stop here, we will continue to search for growth, learning opportunities to advocate for our children, families, wider community and our sector to achieve best outcomes for all," Kash said.

"We were acknowledged for our strong community partnerships including deep cultural connections. We have formed a close-knit network with our community to create an inclusive and passionate family, which has far-reaching benefits."

The centre was also recognised for the strength-based approach it applies to team members and children.

"Our educators and children are the heart of the centre and their expertise is embraced and celebrated wherever possible. Educators perform various champion roles at the centre according to their passion and expertise and the children are empowered to be champions in areas they are passionate about," Kash said.

"This empowerment has led to centre wide growth and expanded the capabilities and confidence of everyone in the centre beyond what we imagined."

The "Excellent" rating also reflects the centre's commitment to supporting families through key educator relationships as well as establishing connections with local schools and the wider community to help equip children and families for school and beyond.

Goodstart Early Learning CEO Julia Davison said she was incredibly proud of Kash and the team at Goodstart Clayton and described it as a recognition of truly outstanding work.



Media release (continued)

"Of the 17,000 early learning and care services operating in Australia, Goodstart Clayton becomes just one of 36 services who hold the Excellent rating.

"Of the 36 services, three Goodstart centres have earned the "Excellent" rating with Goodstart Bathurst gaining an 'Excellent' rating in October 2020 and the team at Goodstart Tuggerah in January last year.

"Today's announcement is a wonderful recognition of Goodstart Clayton and the children who attend and the families who are supporting them. They are benefitting from a centre that is not just exceeding in all seven quality areas – but from an extraordinary team.

"Kash and her team make a positive difference for the children who attend the centre, their families and the wider community," Julia said.

Goodstart also acknowledges the ongoing support from the Victorian State Government, with initiatives such as school readiness funding, Early Start kinder, free kinder, and funding for educational qualifications the government is helping to build higher quality in the early learning sector.

The opportunity to be awarded the Excellent rating by ACECQA is only available to providers with a service performing above the requirements of the National Quality Standard. To be deemed as Excellent, an early learning and care centre must meet three criteria.

- 1. The service exemplifies and promotes exceptional education and care that improves outcomes for children and families across at least three themes.*
- 2. The service demonstrates leadership that contributes to the development of a community, a local area or the wider education and care sector.*
- 3. The service demonstrates commitment to sustained Excellent practice through continuous improvement and comprehensive forward planning.*



For more information

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Notes for editors

Goodstart Early Learning is Australia's largest early learning provider with 671 centres throughout the country. The not-for-profit social enterprise exists purely to improve the lives of Australia's children and their families. For more information, visit goodstart.org.au.

Acknowledgement of country

Goodstart Early Learning acknowledges all Traditional Custodians across Australia and recognises First Nations peoples' continued cultural and spiritual connection to the land, sky and waterways that surround us. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.