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Your submission for this review:

I am a teacher, director, and nominated supervisor in a community-based preschool in regional NSW that caters for 50 children at a time. I have been in this role for 20 years. I work with a Management Board made up of volunteer parents and community members, who fill the role of the Approved Provider, and together we manage the operations and responsibilities of the preschool. Over these 20 years, the administrative burden has increased exponentially. This includes regulatory changes and changes to the implementation of assessment and rating, but a large part of this burden is we have had at least 13 separate funding programs for preschools. Every year, there is a new funding system and the funding complexity increases year to year. For the amount of funding that is expended and received, the funding system is way too complex. In search of equity, the Department and politicians have ended up with a bureaucratic nightmare that is impossible to understand or administer. In addition, the new guidelines, funding calculators, rules, letters to families, are rarely ever released before the middle of the last term of the preceding year. In fact, as I write this in mid-November, I still have not received our funding notification for 2024, meaning that I cannot finalise parent fees, a budget or staffing allocations with confidence. Families and services need to know what their fees will be and who they can offer places to, well before this. I would love to see the NSW Government simplify the funding system and the associated administrative processes and come up with a strategy that can be adopted for a period of longer than 2 years. Melinda Gambley Director/Nominated Supervisor Clunes Community Preschool