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Your submission for this review:

We are a community based nfp Preschool in regional NSW. The Start Strong funding has generally been a positive provision for us, however has not increased in line with operating costs such as wage increases and cost of living pressures. The Start Strong Affordable Preschool and now the Fee Relief funding is very complicated and difficult to understand and therefore manage. There are too many variables and complexities, for example reserved funding, surplus funding and how to apportion and spend the different types of funding and the administrative burden to comply. The funding models keep changing year on year and are communicated via drip feed to the sector, without all the necessary information. The changes are also communicated towards the end of the year - ie its November and we are only just getting details now. How can services budget, plan enrolments, provide accurate and clear information to families and secure staffing when we dont have the information needed to do this. There is fear within our service as the possibility of money being reclaimed is real. The department arent offering any training on the changes until December. The timing of changes is completely inappropriate for services that close over the Dec/Jan period and return at the end of January 2024. This timing effectively gives services a few weeks to understand, process and communicate to families and staff what this means for their year ahead. All of this potentially compromises the quality of education and care provided to children and the ability of services to comply with good governance and operational responsibilities