PERFORMANCE REPORT: IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

OUR PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Support all children to access quality early childhood education in the year before school, including Aboriginal children and disadvantaged children

As part of the National Partnership on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education, the NSW Government has committed that children in the year before school have access to high-quality early childhood education and care. In 2013, 96.2 per cent of children were enrolled in a preschool program in the year before school, up from 91.5 per cent in 2012. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds represented a quarter of all children enrolled in a preschool program in NSW. There was also a 15 per cent increase in the number of Aboriginal children enrolled in a quality preschool program in the year before school, from 3,606 in 2011 to 4,164 in 2013.

Figure 1: Proportion of children enrolled in a preschool program in the year before full-time school, 2010 to 2013

Source: NSW annual reports on implementing the Bilateral Agreement under the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education. Notes: 2013 is the latest agreed figure for this measure. Under the bilateral agreement, performance was measured by the proportion of children accessing an early childhood education program in the year before school. The universal access target is associated with a 95 per cent benchmark, which was chosen because attendance at a preschool program is not compulsory.

Ensure that 70 per cent of early childhood education and care services are assessed against the National Quality Standard by the end of 2015

As part of the department’s commitment to the National Partnership Agreement on the National Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care, 70 per cent of education and care services were to be assessed against the National Quality Standard by the end of 2015.

This target was exceeded, with 70.7 per cent of NSW early childhood education and care services having been quality-rated as at 31 December 2015.

Figure 2: Percentage of early childhood education and care services assessed against the National Quality Standard by end 2015

Source: National Quality Agenda Information Technology System, January 2016. Notes: Under the National Quality Framework, services can be rated at one of five levels ranging from “Significant improvement required” to “Exceeding”. A sixth level, “Excellent”, is available on application to the national body, Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority.