Submission No 7

## EXAMINATION OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORTS FEBRUARY 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2016

**Organisation:** Department of Education

Name: Mr Mark Scott AO

Date Received: 16 June 2017



Mr Bruce Notley-Smith
Chair
Legislative Assembly Public Accounts Committee
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

DGL17/510

Dear Mr Notley-Smith

Thank you for your letter of 26 May 2017 requesting the Department of Education provide a response to recommendations of the 2016 Auditor-General's report *Early Childhood Education* (your reference: D17/15449).

Following the report's release, the department actively sought to address each of the recommendations as a matter of urgency. I am pleased to advise that two of the three recommendations have been successfully completed, and the last recommendation is on track.

The department's response to each of the recommendations, along with their current status, is attached.

In response to your request for feedback on the audit process, I can advise that the department welcomed the Performance Audit as a helpful opportunity to reflect on and improve the process of implementation of the National Quality Framework and funding reforms.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Public Accounts Committee with this update and feedback on the audit process.

Yours sincerely

Mark Scott AO SECRETARY

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** 

**1** June 2017

## IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## Department of Education

## Early Childhood Education

RECOMMENDATION REJECTED OPENelop a new strategy which better targets funding to the achievement of the government's universal access objective. The strategy should:  Build on the work of the 2012 Ministerial review Include a rationale for the funding split between service delivery models Taken  ACCEPTED Start Strong Implementation of 30/06/2017 Start Strong Start Strong Start Strong Start Strong Of the government's universal access objective. The strategy should: Include a rationale for the funding split between service delivery models Taken  Taken  ACCEPTED Start Strong	RESPONSIBILITY (Section of agency responsible for	implementation)	Early Childhood Education												
ECOMMENDATION  REJECTED  ACCEPTED OR  REJECTED  TAKEN  TAKEN  TAKEN  TAKEN  ACCEPTED OR  REJECTED  TAKEN  ACCEPTED OR  REJECTED  TAKEN  Start Strong  Start Strong  Start Strong  Objective. The strategy  Indo the work of the 2012  Inde a rationale for the ding split between service is at before school enrolled for east 600 hours per year and advantaged children in the actional stream exceptional  Start Strong  Start Str	STATUS (completed, on track, delayed)	and COMMENT	Completed						œ						
ECOMMENDATION  Pa new strategy which better funding to the achievement objective. The strategy  Id on the work of the 2012  Isterial review funde a rationale for the ding split between service ivery models get funding to children in the are school enrolled for east 600 hours per year and advantaged children in the sy years before school, unless re are exceptional sumstances  In pack providence-based sision-making.	DUE DATE		30/06/2017												
ECOMMENDATION REJECTE  p a new strategy which better funding to the achievement objective. The strategy  lid on the work of the 2012 sisterial review funde a rationale for the ding split between service ivery models get funding to children in the acknowled advantaged children in the advantaged children in the sur before school, unless re are exceptional sumstances sumstances sisterial evidence-based dision-making.	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN		Implementation of Start Strong												
RECOMMENDATION  Develop a new strategy which better targets funding to the achievement of the government's universal access objective. The strategy should:  Build on the work of the 2012 Ministerial review Include a rationale for the funding split between service delivery models Target funding to children in the year before school enrolled for at least 600 hours per year and disadvantaged children in the two years before school, unless there are exceptional circumstances  Promote improved data quality to underpin evidence-based decision-making.	ACCEPTED OR REJECTED		ACCEPTED												
1 I	RECOMMENDATION		Develop a new strategy which better targets funding to the achievement of the government's universal access objective. The strategy	should:	<ul> <li>Build on the work of the 2012</li> <li>Ministerial review</li> </ul>	• Include a rationale for the	funding split between service delivery models	Target funding to children in the	at least 600 hours per year and	disadvantaged children in the	two years before school, unless	there are exceptional circumstances	<ul> <li>Promote improved data quality</li> </ul>	to underpin evidence-based	decision-making.

Education	Early Childhood Education
Completed	On Track This work was delayed by the Commonwealth until now. It is currently being progressed nationally.
30/06/20	30/06/2017
Implementation of National Law and regulatory changes following review and Decision Regulation Impact Statement.	Work being undertaken as part of Early Childhood Policy Group (ECPG) project on establishing a nationally agreed efficient cost of regulation.
ACCEPTED	ACCEPTED
Further improve efficiency of regulation by:  Continuing work at the national level to reduce the complexity and resource-intensiveness of the National Quality Framework  Using staff more flexibly to meet needs across the State  Better targeting and utilising resources when its new technology is rolled out  Providing incentives for early childhood education and care service providers to encourage early compliance with the National Quality Framework	Cost its services so that it can effectively monitor and demonstrate it is regulating efficiently
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