

**Our reference:** D23/22255

**Your reference:**

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9 August 2023

Mr Murat Dizdar PSM  
Secretary  
Department of Education  
[Murat.Dizdar@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Murat.Dizdar@det.nsw.edu.au)

Cc Ms Jenny Merkley  
Executive Director, Early Childhood Outcomes  
Department of Education  
[Jenny.Merkley@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Jenny.Merkley@det.nsw.edu.au)

via email

Dear Mr Dizdar

### **Interim Report for Review of Early Childhood Education and Care – request for extension**

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (**IPART**) is currently reviewing affordability, accessibility and consumer choice in the NSW early childhood education and care sector. The then Minister for Customer Service asked IPART to conduct a review under section 12A of the *Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992* (NSW) (**IPART Act**) and provide an Interim Report by August 2023.

To date we have undertaken extensive consultation with the community and sector on affordability, accessibility and consumer choice in the NSW early childhood education and care sector. We released an Issues Paper in April 2023, considered over 30 submissions, conducted a NSW Have Your Say consultation, held 4 public hearings (with about 100 participants) and over 40 meetings with different key stakeholders. We published the submissions we received and a summary of the feedback heard via the NSW Have Your Say consultation, and carefully reviewed all stakeholder feedback.

We have also been collecting key data required to undertake our analysis and complete the tasks outlined in our Terms of Reference for the review and inform our Interim Report. This includes:

- Service level data from large (>40 services), medium (5 to 39 services) and small (1 to 4 services) sized providers of early childhood education and care in NSW, including service costs and revenue.
- NSW Department of Education data on NSW preschool costs, fees and funding.
- Australian Commonwealth data on NSW services and children receiving the Child Care Subsidy, as well as NSW early childhood workforce census data and household survey data.

There have been substantial delays in collecting, receiving, validating and preparing much of this data for analysis. We are also yet to receive some of this data including enrolment data, and small and medium sized provider data.

To allow sufficient time for robust data analysis and to enable us to provide useful insights and address the tasks outlined in the Terms of Reference for the review, we are seeking an extension of time to provide the Interim Report by **20 October 2023**.

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We propose to:

- Provide a verbal briefing to NSW Department of Education staff in late August/early September 2023 to present feedback we have heard from the community and sector, and the preliminary findings of our analysis
- Undertake further data validation and more disaggregated analysis to be able to provide more meaningful and in-depth analysis of the sector, costs and prices
- Conduct additional stakeholder engagement to allow us to develop draft recommendations
- Publish the Interim Report by 20 October 2023, which would include draft recommendations for public consultation and feedback.

IPART's contact officer for this matter is Fiona Towers, Executive Director, contactable on (02) 9290 8420 or 0402 339 147.

Yours sincerely

9/08/2023

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Signed by: carmel.donnelly@ipart.nsw.gov.au

Carmel Donnelly PSM  
Chair