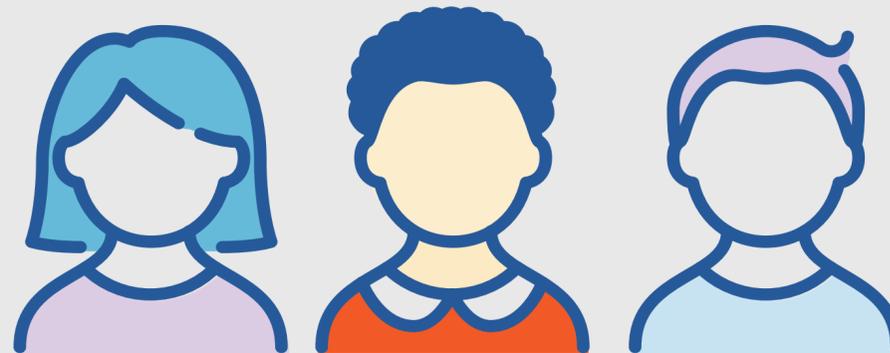




Australian Government
Productivity Commission

**Every child should have access to
up to
3 DAYS A WEEK**



**of high-quality early childhood
education and care**

To make that possible,
governments must improve:



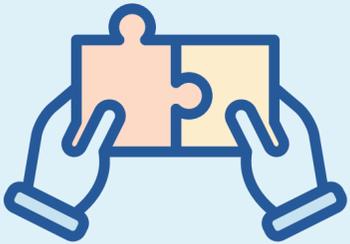
Availability



Affordability



Inclusivity

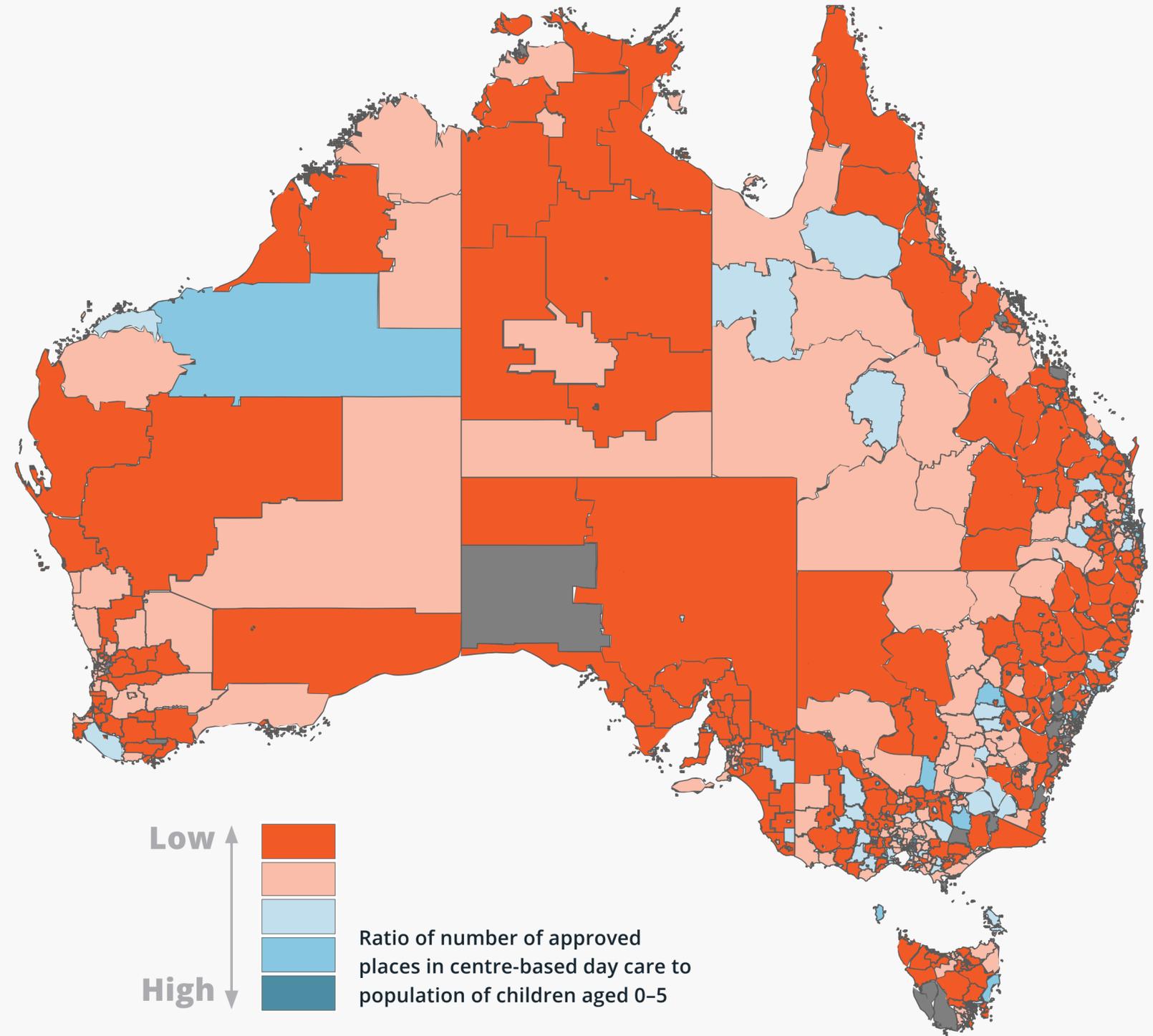


Flexibility

Availability



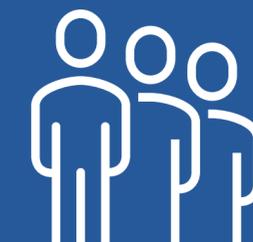
Governments must provide additional support in areas where ECEC providers are unlikely to invest



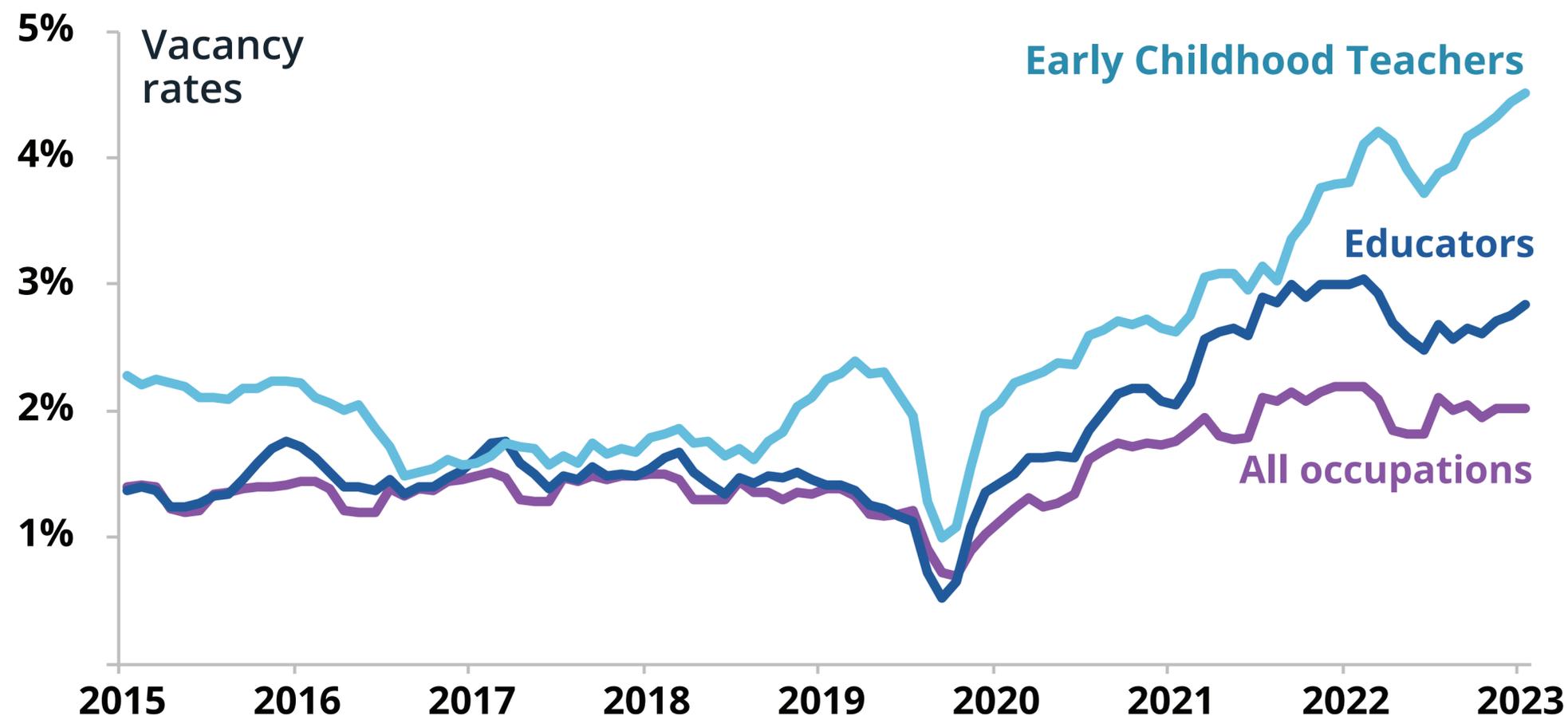
Availability



We will need more ECEC educators and early childhood teachers – but demand for staff is already at record levels ...



... more can be done to improve career and qualification pathways for ECEC professions



Affordability



Government should:



Increase the Child Care Subsidy to 100% for families earning less than \$80k a year



Relax the 'activity test' that ties subsidies to the hours a family works, studies or volunteers

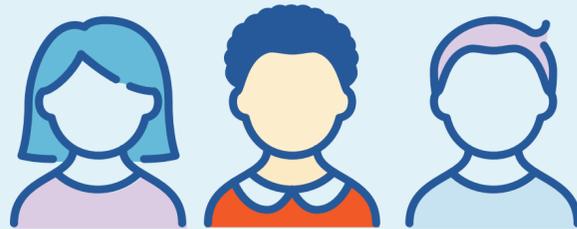
This would increase hours of formal care by about **12%, mostly among children who are not currently accessing care**



Inclusivity



Universal childcare must include every child.



The Government should significantly increase funding for the **Inclusion Support Program and streamline the requirements of the program to expand its reach**

Inclusivity



Governments and ECEC services need to do more to achieve the commitments in the Closing the Gap Agreement.

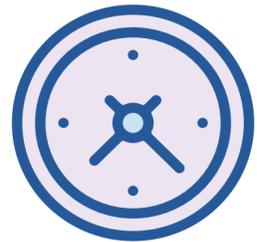
That means working towards a sustainable funding model for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and investing in the cultural capability of the ECEC sector.



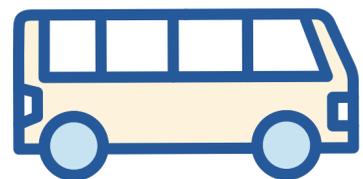
Flexibility



Flexible options to access ECEC are important, particularly for families experiencing disadvantage or social exclusion.



Support out of preschool hours ECEC



Ensure occasional care is available

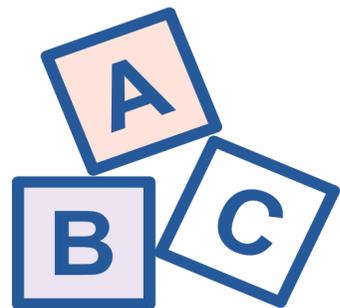


Meet the need for outside school hours care in primary schools

Bringing it together



The Australian, state and territory governments should form a new **National Partnership Agreement (NPA) for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)**



A new independent **Early Childhood Education and Care Commission should be created to support, advise and monitor governments' progress towards **universal access to ECEC.****