



Chapter 9

Completing the RS7 Return

Overview

Introduction The *RS7 Early Childhood Funding Return* (the RS7 Return) is the main funding return for early childhood education (ECE) services.

All ECE services (or the administrators of a service provider) **must** complete the RS7 Return in order to receive funding.

In this chapter

This chapter contains the following topics:

Title	Section
Service profile information	9-1
Calculating the ECE Funding Subsidy	9-2
Calculating the 20 Hours ECE Funding	9-3
Calculating the Staff Hour Count	9-4
Calculating advance days	9-5
Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries	9-6
Claiming the Support Grant for Provisionally Registered Teachers (removed April 2015)	9-7
Monitoring progress: teacher registration targets (removed April 2015)	9-8
Monitoring progress: children receiving 20 Hours ECE (removed April 2015)	9-9
Declaration	9-10

Purpose of the RS7 Return

The RS7 Return tells the Ministry the number of funded child hours (FCHs) that are funded for each service, and the rate at which each FCH will be funded.

Payment cycle

The RS7 Return is completed three times a year:

- February (payment on the first working day in March).
- June (payment on the first working day in July).
- October (payment on the first working day in November).

See **Section 2-4** for details of the funding cycle.



Overview, Continued

Providing your RS7 Return to the Ministry

Services provide their RS7 Return to Ministry as follows:

Services connected to ELI submit their RS7 Return electronically via ELI Web or their Student Management System (SMS).

Services not connected to ELI, send their RS7 Return by post, using the paper-based RS7 Return sent to them by the Ministry.

Note: Services completing a paper-based RS7 Return **must** complete and sign the forms in pen. Pencil must not be used. Completed RS7 Returns should be sent:

By post to	By Courier to	By Email to
ECE Resourcing Ministry of Education PO Box 1666 Wellington Fax: (04) 463 8374	ECE Resourcing Ministry of Education 1 The Terrace Mezzanine floor Wellington 6011	ECE Resourcing Mailbox

Queries

If you have any questions about the RS7 Return or need help filling it in, please contact the Resourcing Contact Centre:

Phone: (04) 463 8383/ 0800 ECE ECE

Email: ECE.resourcing@education.govt.nz



Overview, Continued

What will my RS7 look like?

The RS7 Return consists of several different sections.

The RS7 return will contain **only** those sections relevant to you.

The table below shows the sections of the RS7 return your service will receive and the pages in this Chapter where instructions can be found:

	Education and Care services, hospital-based	Sessional Kindergartens	Mixed ¹ and All-day Kindergartens	Home-based care services	Play-centres
ECE Funding Subsidy Section 9-2	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
20 Hours ECE funding Section 9-3	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Staff Hour Count Section 9-4	yes	no	yes	no	no
Attestation of teachers' salaries Section 9-6	yes	no	no	no	no
Support Grant for Provisionally Registered Teachers	This section was removed April 2015				
Monitoring progress: teacher registration targets Section 9-8	This section was removed April 2015				
Monitoring progress: children receiving 20 Hours ECE Section 9-9	This section was removed April 2015				
Declaration Section 9-10	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

¹ A mixed service is a service licensed to offer a combination of all day and sessional provision.



9-1 Service profile information

This section removed This section was removed April 2015.



9-2 Calculating the ECE Funding Subsidy

Introduction This section explains how services can calculate the ECE Funding Subsidy.

Example Throughout this section there are examples of two services calculating their ECE Funding Subsidy.

- Kowhai Street Childcare Centre is an all-day service.
 - Huia Playcentre is a sessional service.
-

2.5 hour sessions A session of 2.5 hours will receive funding for 3 hours.

Before you begin Make sure you have:

- a copy of the enrolment records for every child who attended your service in the previous four months
- a copy of the attendance records for every child who attended your service in the previous four months
- attendance registers to help work out where the absence rules need to be applied.

Remember: You must take into account the Three Week Rule and Frequent Absence Rule when completing your RS7 Return. You can find more information on the absence rules in the sections listed below:

Topic	Section
Three Week Rule for Continuous Absence	6-5
Three Week Rule: extension for extended non-operation	6-6
The Frequent Absence Rule	6-7
The Frequent Absence Rule - examples	6-8
Absence rule exemptions	7-7



9-2 Calculating the ECE Funding Subsidy, Continued

Step 1: Under 2s

Follow the steps below to calculate the FCHs for children aged under two:

Step	Action
1	List the daily number of hours of enrolment for each permanently enrolled child under two years of age.
2	If any children under two years of age attended the service on a casual or conditional basis, list the number of hours each of these children attended.
3	List the number of hours that can be claimed for each child. Note: a maximum of six hours can be claimed each day for each licensed child-place.
4	Add together the claimable hours for each day. This is the Under Twos FCHs for the day.
5	Round the total to the nearest whole number. Numbers ending in 0.5 or above should be rounded up to the next whole number. Numbers ending in 0.4 or below should be rounded down to the previous number.
6	Repeat Steps 4-5 for each day in the month.
7	Write the FCHs for each day in the column labelled "Under 2".
8	Add together the FCHs for Under 2s for the month.
9	Write the total for the month in the box labelled "Total".



9-2 Calculating the ECE Funding Subsidy, Continued

Step 1: all-day example

On 1 September, Kowhai Street Childcare Centre had three children under the age of two enrolled in their service. One child under the age of two attended casually.

Enrolled Children:	Name	Hours Enrolled	Claimable Hours
	Tealu	6	6
	John	8	6
	Sione	4.5	4.5
Casual Children:	Name	Hours Attended	Claimable Hours
	Timothy	6.5	6
	Total	25	22.5

ECE Funding Subsidy		
	Under 2	2 & Over
Thursday	1	23

Step 1: sessional example

Huia Playcentre operates two sessions per day, each for 2.5 hours:

Note: A session of 2.5 hours will receive funding for 3 hours.

	Number of Under 2s	Total Claimable Hours
Session 1	3	9
Session 2	2	6
Total	5	15

ECE Funding Subsidy		
	Under 2	2 & Over
Thursday	1	15

Step 2: 2 & overs

Repeat Step 1 (above) for children aged two or over **less any hours for children claimed as 20 Hours ECE.**



9-2 Calculating the ECE Funding Subsidy, Continued

Step 2: all-day example

On 1 September, Kowhai Street Childcare Centre had six children aged two or over enrolled in their service. Four children aged two or over attended casually.

Enrolled Children:		Name	Hours Enrolled	Claimable Hours
		Sione	4.5	4.5
		Matthew	8	6
		Hanako	6	6
		Tama	2.5	2.5
		Sarah	3.25	3.25
		Kelly	5	5
Casual Children:		Name	Hours Attended	Claimable Hours
		Blake	7.5	6
		Caitlyn	1.5	1.5
		Kahu	8	6
		Jose	4	4
		Total	50.25	44.75

ECE Funding Subsidy			
		Under 2	2 & Over
Thursday	1	23	45

Step 2: sessional example

Huia Playcentre operates two sessions per day, each for 2.5 hours:

	Number of 2 & Overs	Total Claimable Hours
Session 1	12	36
Session 2	13	39
Total	25	75

ECE Funding Subsidy			
		Under 2	2 & Over
Thursday	1	15	75



9-3 Calculating the 20 Hours ECE funding

Introduction This section explains how services can calculate 20 Hours ECE Funding.

Before completing the RS7 Return, ensure that you have read **Chapter 4 20 Hours ECE**.

Example Throughout this section there are examples of two services calculating their 20 Hours ECE funding.

- Kowhai Street Childcare Centre is an all-day service.
 - James Cook Kindergarten is a sessional service.
-

2.5 hour sessions

A session of 2.5 hours will receive funding for 3 hours.

2.5 hours will be claimed as 20 Hours ECE hours and 0.5 hours claimed as Plus 10 ECE hours.

Before you begin

Make sure you have:

- a copy of the enrolment records including 20 Hours ECE attestation for every child who received 20 Hours ECE at your service in the previous four months
- a copy of the attendance records for every child who received 20 Hours ECE at your service in the previous four months
- attendance registers to help work out where the absence rules need to be applied.

Remember: You must take into account the Three-Week Rule and Frequent Absence Rule when completing your RS7 Return. You can find more information on the absence rules in the sections listed below:

Topic	Section
Three Week Rule for Continuous Absence	6-5
Three Week Rule: extension for extended non-operation	6-6
The Frequent Absence Rule	6-7
The Frequent Absence Rule - examples	6-8
Absence rule exemptions	7-7



9-3 Calculating the 20 Hours ECE funding, Continued

Calculating 20 Hours ECE entitlement

Follow the steps below to calculate the 20 Hours ECE Funding:

20 Hours ECE funding includes both the 20 Hours ECE hours and the Plus 10 ECE hours.

Step	Action
1	List the daily number of hours of enrolment for each enrolled child eligible for 20 Hours ECE.
2	If any children eligible for 20 Hours ECE attended the service on a casual basis and received 20 Hours ECE, list the number of hours each of these children attended.
3	List the number of hours that can be claimed for each child. A maximum of six hours per day and 30 hours per week of funding can be claimed per child. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 Hours ECE hours must only be claimed for up to 20 hours per week for each child. • The remainder (up to 30 hours) may be claimed as Plus 10 ECE hours.
4	Add together the claimable hours for each day.
5	Round the totals to the nearest whole number. Numbers ending in 0.5 or above may be rounded up to the next number. Numbers ending in 0.4 or below should be rounded down to the previous number.
6	Repeat Steps 4-5 for each day in the month.
7	Write the totals for each day in the columns labelled "20 Hours ECE hours" and "Plus 10 ECE hours".
8	Add together the daily totals each month.
9	Write the totals for the month in the boxes labelled "Total".



9-3 Calculating the 20 Hours ECE funding, Continued

All-day example

On 1 September, Kowhai Street Childcare Centre had five children enrolled and receiving 20 Hours ECE.

Name	Hours Enrolled	20 Hours ECE hours	Plus 10 ECE hours
Tim	8	6	0
Melanie	6	6	0
Dave	8	4	2
Hayden	4.5	4.5	0
Erin	7	2	4
Total	33.5	22.5	6

20 Hours ECE Children		
	20 Hours ECE hours	Plus 10 ECE hours
Thursday	1	6

Sessional example

James Cook Kindergarten operates two sessions per day. Session 1 is for 3 hours and session 2 is for 2.5 hours.

A session of 2.5 hours will receive funding for 3 hours.

2.5 hours will be claimed as 20 Hours ECE hours and 0.5 hours **must** be claimed as Plus 10 ECE hours.

	Number of Free Children	20 Hours ECE hours	Plus 10 ECE hours
Session 1	12	36	0
Session 2	14	35	7
Total	26	71	7

20 Hours ECE Children		
	20 Hours ECE hours	Plus 10 ECE hours
Thursday	1	7

Sharing child places

Children may share a child-place during the day.

See **Section 4-2** for information on sharing child places and calculating 20 Hours ECE.



9-4 Calculating the Staff Hour Count

Introduction This section explains how you can transfer the Certificated and Other Teacher hour information from your *Early Childhood Staff Record* to your RS7 Return.

See also Use the table below to find other information referred to in this section:

Topic	Section
Certificated teachers	3-B-2
Certificated Teacher Hours	3-B-2
Regulated (ratio) staff	3-B-2
Staff record	3-B-2
Example Staff Record	Appendix 2

Mixed and all-day kindergartens The Staff Hour Count **must** be completed by all kindergartens that operate all-day.

Kindergartens that operate a mixture of all-day and sessional must complete the Staff Hour Count for the days that they operate as all-day.

Mixed provision services

The Staff Hour Count **must** be completed for all days the service operates as teacher-led.

Step 1: daily Certificated Teacher Hours

Follow the steps below to calculate the daily actual Certificated Teacher Hours for your service:

Step	Action
1	For the first day of the funding period, use your Staff Record to total the actual hours worked by ECE qualified certificated and New Zealand qualified certificated primary teachers who were being counted towards regulated (ratio) staff.
2	Round the total to the nearest hour. For example: 68 hours and 30 minutes would be rounded to 69 hours whereas 68 hours and 29 minutes would be rounded to 68 hours.
3	Write the total in the column labelled “yes”, in the box for the first day of the funding period.
4	Repeat steps 1-3 for each day in the first month of the funding period.



9-4 Calculating the Staff Hour Count, Continued

Step 1:
all-day
example

On 1 September, Rimu Road Crèche had two certificated teachers (Hine and Susan) working. Hine was counted towards regulated (ratio) staff for 7 hours and 35 minutes. Susan was counted towards regulated ratio staff for 4 hours.

11 hours and 35 minutes can be rounded to 12 hours.

		ECE Qual. & Cert.	
		Yes	No
1		12	

Step 1:
sessional
example

On 1 September, Moana Valley Preschool held two sessions. At the morning session, two certificated teachers (Chris and Leilani) were working. Each counted towards regulated (ratio) staff for 3 hours.

At the afternoon session, one certificated teacher (Leilani) was working. Leilani was counted towards regulated (ratio) staff for a further 3 hours.

Moana Valley Preschool had 9 Certificated Teacher Hours for 1 September.

		ECE Qual. & Cert.	
		Yes	No
1		9	
2			

Step 2:
daily Other
Teacher
Hours

Repeat the formula from Step 1 for the hours worked by Other Teachers who were being counted towards regulated (ratio) staff.

Write the total in the column labelled "No", in the box for the first day of the funding period.

Repeat for each day in the first month of the funding period.

		ECE Qual. & Cert.	
		Yes	No
1		12	15
2			

Step 3:
monthly
Certificated
Teacher
Hours

Add together all the Certificated Teacher Hours in the column labelled 'Yes' for the first month of the funding period.

Write the total in the box labelled "Total" at the bottom of the "Yes" column.



9-4 Calculating the Staff Hour Count, Continued

Step 4: monthly Other Teacher Hours

Add together all the Other Teacher Hours in the column labelled “No” for the first month of the funding period.

Only count Other Teacher Hours required to meet the **regulated (ratio) staff requirements**.

Write the total in the box labelled “Total” at the bottom of the “No” column.

Step 5:

Repeat steps 1 to 4 for each month in the funding period.

complete the rest of the RS7 Return

The Ministry will calculate the proportion of Certificated Teacher Hours and determine the funding rate for your service.

Tip



You may like to calculate the proportion of Certificated Teacher Hours in advance of receiving your funding advice notice. The calculation is:

$$\frac{\text{Total Certificated Teacher Hours for the four month period (rounded)}}{\text{Total Certificated Teacher Hours + Other Teacher Hours for the four month period (rounded)}} \times 100\%$$

The Ministry will round the proportion of certificated teacher hours to a whole number using the round half up method and double rounding.

Round half up means that values of 5 and above round up, while values of 4 and below round down. Double rounding means that the value obtained by dividing the Total Certificated Teacher hours by the Total Staff Hours Count is:

1. First rounded to 1 decimal place using the “round half up” method and
2. Then rounded to a whole number using the “round half up” method

For example, a proportion of Certificated Teacher Hours value of 79.45 is first rounded to 79.5, then rounded again to 80 placing the service in the 80-99% funding band.

Funding bands are set out in the funding rate table in Appendix 1.



9-5 Calculating Advance Days

Description Advance Days determine the number of days per month for which your service will receive advance funding.

Advance funding is calculated separately for the days your service is operating as All-Day and operating as Sessional. Only complete the advance days column relevant to your service's operating structure.

Calculating Advance Days

Follow the steps below to calculate the number of days that advance funding will be paid for:

Do not count public holidays, even if the service will be open. Public holidays are not funded in advance.

Step	Action
1	Use a calendar to count up the number of days the service will be open and operating as all-day during each of the next four months.
2	Write the number of days the service will be open and operating as all-day for each month in the boxes provided.
3	Use a calendar to count up the number of days the service will be open and operating as sessional during each of the next four months.
4	Write the number of days the service will be open and operating as sessional for each month in the boxes provided.

Example

There is a maximum of 22 operational days in September.

The Anniversary Day Holiday for Huia Playcentre and Kowhai Street Childcare Centre's region is on September 27. The services cannot claim advance funding for this day.

Huia Playcentre is a sessional service. They claim **21 days** advance funding in the Sessional column.

Kowhai Street Childcare Centre operates all-day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and Tuesday and Thursday as sessional. They claim **12 days** in the all-day column, and **9 days** in the sessional column.



9-6 Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries

Policy

Higher funding rates are available to education and care services who pay all employed certificated teachers at least the minimum salaries described in Appendix 4.

Base funding rates which reflect the proportion of certificated teacher hours used are available to services that agree to pay all employed certificated teachers at least the amount specified at Step 1 of the salary scale.

Parity funding rates are available to education and care services who agree to pay all employed certificated teachers according to Step 1 to 6 of the Parity Salary Scale.

Extended parity funding rates are available to education and care services who agree to pay all employed certificated teachers according to Step 1 to 11 + Management Step of the Extended Parity Salary Scale.

Full Parity funding rates are available to education and care services who agree to pay all employed certificated teachers according to Steps 1 to 11 + Management steps of the Full Parity Salary Scale.

Rationale

Ensuring that certificated teachers are fairly recognised and rewarded for their qualifications and experience in alignment with certificated teachers in kindergarten. This will, among other things, assist with increasing the number of certificated teachers working in early childhood education.



9-6 Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries, Continued

Attestation on the RS7 Return

The Attestation of Certificated Teachers' Salaries is used to determine the funding rate an education and care or hospital-based service is paid.

In this section respondents will be answering the following question:

What steps on the salary scale described in the ECE Funding Handbook is your service using to pay minimum salaries to all employed ECE and primary qualified certificated teachers?

To answer this question respondents will choose one of four options:

- No Salary Step
- Base Salary Step (Step 1)
- Parity Salary Scale (Step 1 to 6)
- Extended Parity Salary Scale (Partial Step 1-11 + Partial Management Step)
- Full Parity Salary Scale (Full Step 1-11 + Full Management Steps)

When selecting an option, the respondent must ensure that their service has paid all employed certificated teachers at least the minimum salary for the period of the RS7 return.

Services are not required to offer the terms of the Kindergarten Teachers, Head Teachers and Senior Teachers' Collective Agreement.

Please note:

See [Chapter 3-B-2 Determining a teachers initial salary scale](#) for detail of changes to requirements from 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2027 for newly certificated teachers and certificated teachers that are new to working in the New Zealand ECE sector.

Following the July 2025 funding period, a 2-year moratorium on services who have currently attested to paying permanently employed certificated teachers at Parity and Extended Parity salary scale amounts will take effect. These services will not be able to attest to paying higher salary scales after the July 2025 funding payment, for a period of two years. This moratorium will prevent these services from attesting to higher salary scales, but it will not prevent any service from attesting to lower salary scales during this time.

Restrictions during moratorium:

If a service attests to a lower salary scale, they will not be able to revert to their previous higher salary scale unless they opted into the Base salary scale or opt out of the Pay Parity scheme for a full attestation period.

For example, if a service attests to Full Parity in the July 2025 funding period and then moves to Extended Parity in the November 2025 funding period, they will not be able to attest to Full Parity again in the following (March 2026) funding period.



9-6 Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries, Continued

Exceptions to the moratorium:

- Services that attest to paying Base salary scale or that had opted out of the Pay Parity scheme for a full attestation period, new services, and services that undergo a change in ownership, during the moratorium.

These services will be able to attest to paying any salary scale, however, after doing so will be subject to the conditions of the moratorium mentioned above.

Delegated Representatives and the Attestation on the RS7 Return

It is the responsibility of a Service Provider to ensure that any delegated representative, who may complete an RS7 return on their behalf, understand what attestation condition their service has met prior to submitting their service's RS7 return.

Attestation Period

When completing the Attestation of Certificated Teachers' Salaries section of the RS7 return, a service is confirming what funding conditions they have met for the RS7 return period.

Funding Period	Attestation Period
March	October – January
July	February – May
November	June – September

A service's funding rate will be adjusted if they are found to have not met the necessary funding conditions for the entire funding period. Any funding recoveries resulting from this change in funding rates will be made during the next funding payment.

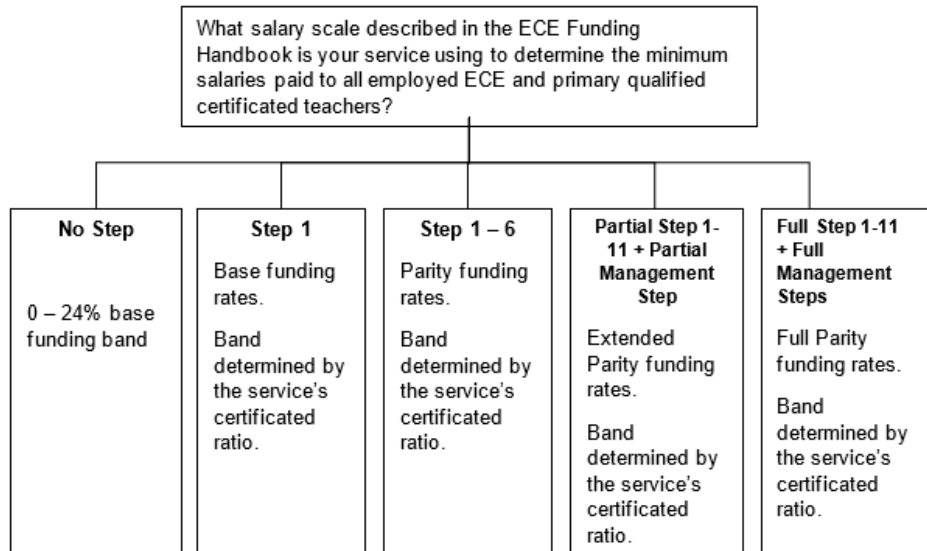
Note: For the November 2023 funding round the attestation period for funding conditions related to Full Parity Salary Scale Steps 1 to 11 + Full Management steps start from November 2023



9-6 Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries, Continued

Funding Rate Outcome from Attestation Response

The following diagram represents what funding rates will be paid for each response to the attestation question.





9-6 Attestation of certificated teachers' salaries, Continued

Example

An example of the required attestation is shown below:

Attestation of Certificated Teachers' Salaries									
<p>Services that want to access higher funding rates must pay all employed ECE and primary qualified certificated teachers at least the amount(s) specified in the salary scale defined in the ECE Funding Handbook available on the Education.govt.nz website.</p> <p>What salary scale described in the ECE Funding Handbook is your service using to determine the minimum salaries paid to all employed ECE and primary qualified certificated teachers?</p>									
<input type="radio"/>	No Salary Scale (No Step)	<input type="radio"/>	Base Salary Scale (Step 1)	<input type="radio"/>	Parity Salary Scale (Step 1 – 6)	<input type="radio"/>	Extended Parity Salary Scale (Partial Step 1-11 + Partial Management Step)	<input type="radio"/>	Full Parity Salary Scale (Full Step 1-11 + Full Management Steps)
<p>By answering 'No Salary Scale (No step)' to this question, your service is identified as having not met the funding conditions related to the minimum salary scales. Your service will, therefore, be paid at the lowest level of funding.</p> <p>By answering 'Base Salary Scale (Step 1)' to this question, your service is identified as meeting the funding conditions for this minimum salary scale. Your service will therefore have access to the base funding rates.</p> <p>By answering 'Parity Salary Scale (Step 1-6)' to this question, your service is identified as meeting the funding conditions for this minimum salary scale. Your service will therefore have access to the parity funding rates.</p> <p>By answering 'Extended Parity Salary Scale (Partial Step 1-11 + Partial Management Step)' to this question, your service is identified as meeting the funding conditions for this minimum salary scale. Your service will therefore have access to the extended parity funding rates.</p> <p>By answering 'Full Parity Salary Scale (Full Step 1-11 + Full Management Steps)' to this question, your service is identified as meeting the funding conditions for this minimum salary scale. Your service will therefore have access to the full parity funding rates.</p>									



9-7 Claiming the Support Grant for Provisionally registered Teachers

This section removed

This section was removed in April 2015.



9-8 Monitoring Progress: Teacher Registration

**This section
removed**

This section was removed in April 2015.



9-9 Monitoring Progress: number of children

This section removed

This section was removed in April 2015.



9-10 Declaration

RS7 Returns must have a completed Declaration

All RS7 Returns must be accompanied by a completed Declaration. The wording of this Declaration is shown below.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information contained on this form is true and correct.

I understand that:

- if I have made a false statement **or**
- if I have failed to answer all the questions in full **or**
- if I do not provide documentation supporting the funding claim **or**
- if I do not make documents available for inspection **or**
- if I do not tell the Ministry of Education of changes that may affect funding claims or rates

then

- The funding claim may be reviewed and funding withheld **and/or**
- I will have to pay back the total amount of any overpayment **and/or**
- I may be prosecuted and fined or imprisoned.

By signing this declaration, I am confirming that this funding claim is made in accordance with the conditions outlined in the current *Early Childhood Education Funding Handbook* and that the Ministry can withhold all or some of the funding if there is a breach of any of these conditions.

- If you are completing a paper-based RS7 Return, this Declaration will be signed. Paper-based RS7 Returns must be completed in pen and signed in order to be processed for funding. Do not use pencil anywhere on your RS7 Return.
 - If you are completing an electronic RS7 Return, this Declaration will be submitted.
-