

## Long Day Care Capital Funding Exceptional Circumstances Grant Questions and Answers

### **What is the Long Day Care Capital Funding Exceptional Circumstances Grant ?**

The *Long Day Care Capital Funding Exceptional Circumstances Grant* is a one-off discretionary grant of up to \$500 000 (GST Excl) to assist outer regional and remote communities to establish or continue to provide access to centre-based long day care where there is evidence of market failure and where there is documented unmet demand for this type of child care.

In this context, “exceptional circumstances” are those in which the failure of an existing service provider or the inability of a community to establish a Long Day Care would lead to circumstances where no formal centre-based child care is available to the community.

### **How much funding is available under the grant?**

A maximum amount of up to \$500 000.00 (GST Excl) will be available to successful applicants. No single funding request will be approved for more than \$500 000. As the funding available is limited, it is anticipated that not all eligible applicants will receive funding.

Applicants that receive in-principle agreement for their proposal may also be eligible to receive an initial offer of funding to assist them to provide the additional documentation required to ensure a comprehensive assessment of their proposal.

Receipt of in-principle support and/or initial funding does not guarantee other funding.

### **Why is the Australian Government providing this funding?**

The Australian Government is committed to assisting outer regional and remote communities to develop innovative, place-based solutions to ensure continued community access to centre-based child care.

### **Who is eligible to receive funding under the grant?**

To receive funding under the grant, service providers or community-based groups in rural or remote areas must be:

- located in an area identified as ‘Outer Regional’, ‘Remote’ or ‘Very Remote’ as determined by the Department of Social Services, using the Accessibility and Remoteness Index Australia (ARIA Plus)
- have an existing or intending sole provider of centre-based long day care in an area of need identified by the Department of Social Services, where there is evidence of market failure
- facing difficulties in extending/expanding their facilities to operate centre-based long day care, with documented evidence of unmet demand for centre-based long day care in that area
- eligible for Long Day Care Sustainability Assistance funding under the CSP; and

- Child Care Benefit (CCB) approved or eligible to be CCB approved.

### **What other aspects will assist in determining eligibility?**

Proposals involving co-location with existing facilities and/or sourcing of other funding streams (such as state government funding) will be prioritised. This recognises the desirability of shared funding responsibilities and the increased scope to deliver more integrated local services for families.

### **Who is not eligible to receive the grant?**

Applications from service providers or community-based groups will not be accepted in cases where:

- there is an existing centre-based long day care service in the area
- a prospective applicant would not be eligible to receive Long Day Care Sustainability Assistance Funding under the CSP
- a service in the area has previously received capital funding from the Australian Government under the Long Day Care Capital Funding Program
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- or
- the area is classified as “Inner Regional” or “Major City” on ARIA PLUS.

### **What can the grant be spent on?**

The grant may be used to:

- extend or modify existing community facilities to meet the child care needs of the community, including through the installation of appropriate bathroom facilities, additional learning environments or outdoor play areas
- extend an existing community facility through the co-location of a demountable building
- construct a free-standing child care facility that will create a positive early childhood environment to meet the needs of the local community.

Any modification, extension or construction must meet the relevant Commonwealth, State and Territory licensing regulations required for CCB approved Long Day Care services.

### **What cannot be purchased with the grant?**

Requests for funding to support the rebuilding of facilities damaged by a man-made or natural disaster (i.e. fire, floods or cyclone) will not be supported if insurance covers these costs, unless otherwise agreed to by the Program Delegate.

The grant must not be used to pay for the following:

- purchase of land unless otherwise agreed by the Department of Social Services
- rent
- employment of staff or staff training requirements
- purchase of televisions or non-educational based gaming equipment
- purchase of audio/visual equipment (e.g. cameras and video cameras)
- insurances, membership fees, or

- purchase of motor vehicles.

### **How can an applicant apply for funding under the grant?**

Service providers or community-based groups with demonstrated difficulty establishing or continuing to operate centre-based long day care with demonstrated unmet demand for that type of care may apply for consideration for capital funding under the grant.

In the first instance, potential applicants should contact the relevant State or Territory Office of the Department of Social Services to discuss whether “exceptional circumstances” exist. If supported, the service provider or community-based group may be asked to prepare a written application for funding. This application must include:

- an outline of the current provision of child care in the area
- the difficulties experienced in establishing or expanding child care in the area including evidence of viability or unmet demand
- options considered and explored prior to applying for the grant
- an outline of the proposal to continue the operation of or to establish child care in the area including the existing community facilities that will be used, the expected cost and timeframe for completion
- any interim strategies identified for the provision of child care; and
- all potential funding sources explored, together with information on other funding and the type of support they are offering.

The application will then be forwarded to Department of Social Services’s National Office for consideration.

Further documentation may be requested from the applicant at any stage.

For more information contact the Department on 1300 653 227 and request the child care office in your State or Territory.

### **How will an application for funding be assessed?**

The CSP Delegate in the National Office of the Department of Social Services will assess all applications for funding under this grant program on a case-by-case basis.

As the funding available for these grants is limited, it is anticipated that not all eligible applicants will receive an offer of funding.

### **How will an applicant be advised of the outcome of their application for funding?**

If the Department of Social Services decides to grant funding, a formal offer of funding will be made to the successful applicant. This formal offer of funding includes a Letter of Offer, a Funding Agreement Schedule and the relevant Terms and Conditions.

The Funding Agreement and related Terms and Conditions will specify the details of the offer including the amount and the responsibilities and accountabilities of both parties. It will also specify the start date and end date for the activity and the reporting requirements.

If the Department of Social Services decides not to grant funding, the unsuccessful applicant will be advised of the outcome and the reasons for this decision in writing.

**How long will the services have to spend the grant?**

The timeframe for completion of an activity will differ across all projects and will be negotiated with the successful applicant when a funding agreement is offered.

**What other funding may be available to services in receipt of a grant?**

Approved centre-based Long Day Care services may be eligible to receive other funding under the CSP, including:

- Long Day Care Sustainability Assistance: which is funding to support small child care services in areas of need approved by the Department of Social Services. It is targeted towards communities where a service is the sole provider of Long Day Care, particularly in outer regional and remote areas, areas of socio-economic disadvantage, and services which provide places for children aged less than 24 months. Funding is a contribution to support viability and is based on Equivalent Full-Time (EFT) utilised places.

For more information about funding available to Long Day Care Services under the CSP, contact the Department on 1300 653 227 and request the child care office in your State or Territory.

**Where can I access other information about the grant?**

Further information about this grant can be found in the *Long Day Care Capital Funding Exceptional Circumstances Grant Guidelines* which are on the Department of Social Services website at:

[www.dss.gov.au](http://www.dss.gov.au)