

4. A new 3-year-old preschool program in a long day care service

Flexible Initiatives Trial – Stream 1A scenarios

Community need

With local community preschools required to prioritise children in the year before school, and the 2 local family day care services focused on the 0-2 year old age group, Glowing Early Childhood has identified that there is a clear demand for a dedicated preschool program for 3-year-old children in their area. They survey the community and their current families and find that 15% of families are unable to access a dedicated preschool program for their 3-year-old child.



The proposal

Glowing Early Childhood – a long day care service – proposes to use a Flexible Initiatives Trial grant to offer a dedicated preschool program for 3-year-old children between 9am and 3pm, converting a space that is currently being used for storage.

To assist with accessibility, the proposal is that children attending the 3-year-old preschool session will also be able to access before and after care if the families require it. To ensure the sustainability

of their proposal, they plan to also seek regulatory approval to increase their numbers of licensed places by 10. They also plan to make changes to all the sessions they offer, including adding half day options to better meet the needs of local families.

The plan

The long day care plans to undertake minor capital works to renovate an existing storeroom, apply for regulatory approval, hire additional educators to meet ratios together and train staff.

The budget

| Item | Trial cost *GST excl |
|--|-----------------------|
| Design fees To redesign the storage space for preschool | \$12,000 |
| Minor capital works directly related to the initiative Renovation of the storage room to meet safety and compliance requirements for the 3-year-old preschool room: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adding a window \$13,000 • electrical wiring \$12,000 • floor vinyl covering \$9,000 • plumbing \$9,600 • painting \$5,000 • fixed carpentry \$19,000 • other fixtures and equipment \$4,500 • cleaning \$1,500 | \$73,600 |
| Regulatory fees Approval for increasing licensed places | \$125 |
| Staff 1 x full-time early childhood teacher (ECT) for 35 hours per week 2 x full-time Certificate III educators for 35 hours per week | \$70,455 \$116,040 |
| Recruitment costs Advertising and recruitment costs | \$2,600 |
| Software costs For changes to the booking system | \$1,500 |
| Training Staff training | \$1,500 |
| Total cost (excluding GST) | \$277,820 |

Grant application

The Glowing Early Childhood team submits a grant application outlining the above information and including quotes for the capital works elements. The application is assessed and is successful. They sign a funding agreement.

Implementation

Glowing Early Childhood completes its minor capital works renovation work and is approved by the regulatory authority to increase its licensed places by 10.

They successfully recruit an ECT and 2 Certificate III educators to support the dedicated preschool program.

To ensure families are aware of the new preschool program, Glowing Early Childhood promotes it through local newsletters, social media and by connecting with local groups who support children and families. Their increased licensed places are immediately taken up, with many families using the different session types that better meet their needs.

Glowing Early Childhood keeps track of the utilisation rates of the different session types to record the usage of the program and evaluate participation. They also gather family and community feedback. This information allows Glowing Early Childhood to refine their program and evaluate its impact.

Outcomes

Glowing Early Childhood's proposal provides a dedicated preschool program for 3-year-old children, more flexible education and care options with different sessions available for families to choose from and increased places to meet the needs of families in their community.



Learn more

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