

2. A partnership between a community preschool and a BASC service

Flexible Initiatives Trial – Stream 2 scenarios

Community need

Dunbar ECEC is an approved provider in NSW which runs both community preschool and after school care services – Beacon Kids Before and After School Care (BASC) and Sunshine Grove Community Preschool. The BASC and the preschool have identified a growing demand for extended education and care services in their local community. Surveys and feedback from families reveal that many parents require a convenient and community focused solution for their children’s extended hours care.



The proposal

Dunbar ECEC works with their BASC service and their community preschool to propose an innovative solution – to offer wrap around, extended hours education and care for the preschool children, provided by the BASC service. The proposal incorporates a plan to ‘transport’ the children to and from the preschool via ‘walking bus’, providing a secure and organised way for preschool children to transition from the preschool facility to the BASC facility, which is across the road.

The plan

The plan for the proposed program includes recruiting new educators to ensure continuity of care; developing a schedule and route for transportation; collaborating with local authorities to ensure adherence to safety and transportation regulations; delivery of training programs for staff focused on safety, supervision and effective communication; the procurement of age-appropriate equipment and furniture; and investment in communication tools to facilitate effective communication between families and services.

The budget

Item	Trial cost *GST excl
Staff	
1 x full-time early childhood teacher for 5 hours per day (split shift, program delivery)	\$48,100
1 x full-time diploma educator for 5 hours per day (split shift, program delivery) (ongoing cost)	\$37,700
Admin	
1 x 0.25 x full-time equivalent of a director per day as backfill (temporary cost)	\$20,280
Training	
Staff training programs focused on safety and child supervision (one-time cost)	\$2,000
Software setup	
Implementation of a communication system (one-time cost)	\$5,000
Resources	
Age-appropriate equipment and furniture (one-time cost)	\$10,000
Research / legal / regulations	
One-time cost	\$15,000
Total cost (excluding GST)	\$138,080

Grant application

Dunbar ECEC submits a grant application with the Beacon Kids BASC as the primary applicant as they will be providing the additional 'wrap-around' care outside the preschool children's regular care arrangements. The application is assessed and is successful. Dunbar ECEC signs a funding agreement.

Implementation

Dunbar ECEC is able to coordinate Beacon Kids BASC and Sunshine Grove Community Preschool to collaborate effectively and implement a new program that enhances the education and care experience with wraparound, extended hours care, educators dedicated to the children participating in the program, and a secure and organised transition between the two facilities – providing families with a reliable and safe education and care solution.

The partner services establish clear communication channels, collect feedback from parents and children, and continually refine the program to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Outcomes

The result is an enhanced education and care experience. Children benefit from the convenience and safety of the program, and families gain access to extended hours education and care services that offer choice, control and continuity in their education and care arrangements.



Learn more

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