

# 3. Extended before and after-preschool care in a rural area

## Flexible Initiatives Trial – Stream 1 scenarios

### Community need

In a rural-remote setting where lengthy commutes are the norm, the pressing need for extended before and after preschool care was clear to Little Finders Community Preschool. The preschool surveyed its current families and found 5% of its population required extended hours care.



### The proposal

Little Finders Community Preschool proposes to use a Flexible Initiatives Trial grant to offer before and after-preschool care with extended hours. The proposal will help ensure local parents have the support they need to manage work and family obligations as well as ensuring a smooth transition between preschool and home for children.

### The plan

The preschool plans to hire additional educators specifically for extended hours, together with some new temporary staff to support with administration and training. They factor in all costs in the trial budget, including an increase in rental costs resulting from the extended hours use of the preschool facility.

## The budget

Item	Trial cost
<b>Staff</b> 2x full-time diploma educators for 2 hours per day (hours of the program initiative –ongoing cost)	\$36,040
<b>Admin</b> 0.25 x full-time equivalent of a director as backfill (temporary)	\$20,280
<b>Subsidy</b> 2 hours per day for 2 days (based on daily rate of \$60/day), assuming 5% of total children utilising the extended hours (one-off cost)	\$360
<b>Training</b> Upskilling of staff 0.5 of a full-time director as backfill for 1 week (temporary cost)	\$780
<b>Rent</b> Increase in rent of \$119 per week (ongoing cost)	\$6,188
<b>Total cost</b>	\$63,648

## Grant application

The Little Finders team submits a grant application outlining the above information. The application is assessed and is successful. They sign a funding agreement.

## Implementation

Little Finders is successful in recruiting two dedicated, professional educators to support extending their hours from 9am–3pm to 8am–4pm

Using their new software, the preschool captures data on utilisation rates, and other data, including sign in/sign out time to record the usage of the extended hours and evaluate participation. They also gather family feedback. This information allows Little Finders to adapt and refine their program, continually enhancing its impact.

## Outcomes

Little Finders' proposal both accommodates parents' schedules and provides flexible care and education to children. By ensuring extended hours support both working parents and children's development, they create an environment where everyone thrives.



### Learn more

Scan the QR code to find out all about the Flexible Initiatives Trial