

Background

The NSW Government is working hard to deliver on its \$120 million commitment to expand access to Before and After School Care (BASC) for public primary school children across NSW.

BASC services currently operate in about 720 public schools in NSW. They provide before and after school hours care as well as on-site vacation care for students at the school and other eligible children.

The Government initiatives aim to fill gaps in access to services across the state, particularly in regional areas, as well as to clear waiting lists in areas of high demand.

The goal can only be achieved with the support of the hundreds of care providers who already deliver quality and affordable care for families and communities.

We will be consulting with parents, school communities and providers to find innovative solutions for creating more places in more schools and build on the solid foundations of the existing services.

This includes upcoming consultation with the sector on improvements to current guidelines, contract terms and tendering processes. Parents will be able to complete a form with Service NSW from 1 July 2019 to help us identify where there is high demand.

Applications will open in the near future for grants from the \$50 million Before and After School Care Infrastructure Fund to buy new equipment and expand facilities to create more places.

A further \$40 million will provide rental subsidies to service providers located at public primary schools while another \$20 million is earmarked for those communities where a standalone service may not be viable, including smaller schools and rural and remote communities.

Different areas and sometimes individual services will need different solutions. We will work with schools, communities and providers to pilot some new approaches and to better understand the needs of parents.

We are also making it easier for schools to host BASC services. The package provides \$8.5 million over four years for a team of specialists to help coordinate services and resources on an area or regional basis.

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Resources

The following resources can be used by government agencies, schools and service providers to promote the commitment.

Images

Approved imagery can only be used in relation to before and after school care.

These images are not approved for any other use.

Download graphics

<https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/items/c4586a82-5489-4a11-a60b-9dc698f1bff8/1/>

Links

Apply for funding through SmartyGrants

<http://www.TBC>

Service NSW parent engagement form

<http://www.TBC>

Department landing page

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school/primary-schools/before-and-after-school-care>

Information for parents

The Department of Education wants to hear from parents about what type of before and after school care arrangements will support them most effectively.

Parents and carers with children attending government schools who need access to before and after school care and vacation care should complete the Service NSW form. This includes parents who currently have access to care and require more or a different type of care.

The information we collect will be used to understand the level of demand from parents and the locations where additional or different types of care are needed. This information will be used to plan for and manage the availability of new and expanded services.

From 1 July 2019 the new site will allow parents to tell us the areas of need, not book places. To access before and after school care, parents need to contact the relevant service directly. Service information is available on the [Child Care Finder](#).

While the commitment for before and after school care aims to deliver places for all children attending public primary schools, we know that many services cater to children from a range of schools, both public and non-public. Parents of children attending non-government schools are still able to register your interest in expanded care via the form.

Messaging from department channels

TBC with Communication and Engagement

Information for schools and principals

Funding infrastructure to support more BASC places

Applications open on 1 July 2019 for grants from the \$50 million Before and After School Care Infrastructure Fund to buy new equipment and expand facilities to create more places.

All services providing care for government primary school children will be eligible, not just services located at government schools.

The aim is to see suitable spaces in all public primary schools in Sydney, Newcastle, Illawarra and the Central Coast, as well as major regional centres, being made available for before and after school care and school holiday care programs from 7am to 6pm.

New eligibility criteria will operate from 1 January 2020 to ensure the Fund is as easy as possible to access and to maximise the number of new places being created.

Making it easier to have a service in your school

We are also making it easier for schools to host BASC services. The package provides \$8.5 million over four years for a team of specialists to help coordinate services and resources on an area or regional basis.

The new specialist team will provide proactive and on the ground assistance for set-up, contract management and service transition.

Encouraging the parents and carers at your school to complete the EOI form will ensure we can better understand the demand from your community.

Rural and remote solutions

A further \$20 million is aimed at those communities where a standalone service may not be viable, including smaller schools and rural and remote communities. Different areas and sometimes individual services will need different solutions.

We will work with schools, communities and providers to pilot some new approaches and to better understand the needs of parents.

Messaging to parents in your school community

We ask that information about the parent engagement piece be distributed to your parent community through the school newsletter, website and social media channels.

Schools with a BASC service

Suggested newsletter article

Suggested Facebook post

Suggested tweet

Suggested website copy

Schools without a BASC service

Suggested newsletter article

Suggested Facebook post

Suggested tweet

Suggested website copy

Information for service providers

Our goal can only be achieved with the support of the hundreds of care providers who deliver quality and affordable care for families and communities.

We are consulting with school communities and providers to find innovative solutions for creating more places in more schools and build on the solid foundations of the existing services

Consultation on improvements to guidelines, contract terms and tendering processes is being undertaken with the sector. A key objective is better alignment between administrative processes and the National Quality Framework.

Support for new services and creating additional places at existing services will be prioritised.

We will also looking to ensure that new services and places are sustainable and will become self-sufficient over time.

Funding infrastructure to support more BASC places

Applications open on 1 July 2019 for grants from the \$50 million Before and After School Care Infrastructure Fund to buy new equipment and expand facilities to create more places.

All services providing care for government primary school children will be eligible, not just services located at government schools.

Over the rest of 2019 we will review how the fund works.

New eligibility criteria will operate from 1 January 2020 to ensure the Fund is as easy as possible to access and to maximise the number of new places being created.

Subsidising rent to improve affordability

There is also \$40 million over four years to provide rental subsidies to service providers located at public primary schools:

The objective is to reduce fees and providers will need to be able to demonstrate how savings have been passed on to families.

Rural and remote solutions

A further \$20 million is aimed at those communities where a standalone service may not be viable, including smaller schools and rural and remote communities.

Different areas and sometimes individual services will need different solutions. We will work with schools, communities and providers to pilot some new approaches and to better understand the needs of parents.

Making it easier to run a service in a NSW Public School

We are also making it easier for schools to host BASC services.

The package provides \$8.5 million over four years for a team of specialists to help coordinate services and resources on an area or regional basis.

The new specialist team will provide proactive and on the ground assistance for set-up, contract management and service transition.

Messaging to parents using your service

We ask that information about the parent engagement piece be distributed to your parent community through the service newsletter, website and social media channels.

Suggested newsletter article

Suggested Facebook post

Suggested tweet

Suggested website copy

Frequently asked questions

Will students of non-government schools benefit from this commitment?

While the commitment is for children attending public primary schools, we understand that many services cater to children from multiple schools, both public and non-public. In expanding the overall number of services and places available, the initiatives will benefit a wider range of students and families.