



Early Learning and Care Centres

In the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$114.5 million over four years to establish 38 Early Learning and Care Centres. These centres, including six Autism specific centres, will provide integrated early learning and care in a long day care setting that takes into account the specific requirements of the local community. Where possible, these centres are located on school grounds, TAFE, university or other community land.

The six Autism specific centres provide dedicated early learning and care programs for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The funding includes both the capital costs and the ongoing costs of establishing additional child care places, including Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate.

Where are the centres located?

The locations for 33 of the centres, including one Autism specific centre, were announced during the 2007 Federal Election campaign. Since then, a further five locations have been announced for Autism specific Early Learning and Care Centres.

Details on the locations for these centres are at Attachment A.

How were the specific sites for the priority locations decided?

The Australian, state and territory governments worked together to identify suitable sites for the 38 centres. A key consideration for these centres was to locate them, where possible, on school grounds, TAFE, university or other community land.

How much funding will each centre receive?

The amount of Australian Government funding contributed to each centre has varied, depending on the scope of the proposed project, size of the centre and local construction costs.

The Australian Government has allocated an average of \$1.7m in capital funding for each of the locations, however, this is an Australia-wide average. Given this, the contribution for centres in high cost areas will be higher than for those in metropolitan areas.

The Australian Government is looking to achieve best value for money and sought opportunities for co-investment from interested parties, including local government authorities, community organisations, independent schools and private enterprise. Funding is not provided for the purchase of land and in many instances, other parties are also contributing towards the construction costs.

Who will receive the funding?

The Australian, state and territory governments are working together to deliver the 38 centres. Where states and territories elected to manage the establishment of the centres, they received and administered the capital funding. Where the relevant state or territory government elected not to manage the construction, an open and competitive application process, managed by the Australian Government, was undertaken. In these circumstances, a single entity, consortium or a partnership from the private, community and/or public sectors was able to apply.

Will all the centres be the same size?

No. The size of each centre depends on the number of new child care places needed in the location, the size of the land available and financial viability of the centre in the future.

One of the objectives of the program is to increase the supply of integrated early childhood education and care. A number of centres will be incorporated into the development of other facilities. Examples include redevelopment of schools, preschools, children and family centres and health facilities, such as GP Super Clinics.

Will all the centres be established on state government land?

No. The priority was to locate the centres on school grounds in government and non-government schools and can include stand-alone preschools. This will ensure closer links between early learning and care and will facilitate increased provision of 'wrap-around care' to assist working parents to access preschool for their children.

Where school grounds were not available or suitable for the purpose of establishing a new ELCC, other sites were considered.

Who will own the facility when a new centre is built?

Ownership of the centre will depend on who owns the land on which the facility is built. If the land is state land, the state will own the facility. If the land is owned by a community group, ownership of the facility will rest with that community group unless otherwise agreed. In all cases, the Australian Government requires a purposes agreement, or other safeguard, to ensure that the land and facility is used for the provision of a high quality early learning and care program for an appropriate period of time (in most cases a minimum period of 20 years).

Who will pay for the ongoing maintenance of the building?

The ongoing maintenance of the building will be determined by agreement between the building owner and the service provider. The Australian Government contribution does not include provision for ongoing maintenance. On that basis, service providers are expected to have a business model that generates sufficient revenue to cover the on-going costs of delivering their service.

How are service providers selected?

Where a funding recipient chooses not to operate the child care service themselves, a competitive selection process to source a provider is generally undertaken.

The detailed requirements for the selection processes were developed with the relevant states and territory governments and may vary from location to location.

What are service providers required to do?

All ELCC service providers are required to:

- be responsive to local needs;
- be inclusive of all children, including those with additional needs;
- provide integrated learning and care programs; and
- provide affordable child care.

How can I find out more information about the establishment of the centres?

You can find out more information about the centres by emailing your enquiry to ELCCenquiries@deewr.gov.au.

Information about the arrangements for the centres is also published in the DEEWR website at [Early Learning and Care Centres](#).

Is there a waiting list I can place my child's name on to attend one of the new centres?

It is the responsibility of the individual service provider to advertise that they are taking names for enrolments at their centre.

Where can we find out about available care in the meantime?

The Australian Government is committed to providing families with access to better information about child care; the mychild.gov.au website was developed for this purpose. The mychild.gov.au website is a virtual hub that provides access to comprehensive health, early learning, child care and parenting support information. The website also provides families with information about Government initiatives and assistance with child care options. Families can search the website to find local child care centres, including vacancy, fee and mapping information. In the future, mychild.gov.au will also include information about the quality accreditation status of local child care services.

To further assist parents seeking approved child care for their children, the Australian Government has established the Child Care Access Hotline, which is a telephone service that provides parents with information to help choose a child care service that meets their needs. The Hotline can provide information about approved child care services and vacancies in any particular area, the different types of child care services available and Australia Government assistance with the cost of child care.

The Hotline is open Monday to Friday between 8am and 9pm (AEST) on 1800 670 305 (free call). A telephone typewriter (TTY) service is available on 1800 639 327 for people who are deaf or who have a hearing or speech impairment.

Last Updated 14 October 2010

Attachment A: Early Learning and Care Centres

Locations for 38 Early Learning and Care Centres	
Centre	Location
New South Wales	
Falconbridge	Falconbridge Public School Grose Road, Falconbridge
Milperra	Milperra Public School Pozieres Avenue, Milperra
Newcastle	Merewether Heights Public School Cedar Crescent, Merewether Heights, Newcastle
North Ryde	North Ryde Public School Cox's Road, North Ryde
Queanbeyan	Queanbeyan South Public School Cameron Road, Queanbeyan
Killara	Abbotsleigh School Woonona Avenue, Wahroonga
Bondi Junction	Bondi Junction ELCC Ebley Street, Bondi Junction
Fairlight	Roundhouse Child Care Facility Balgowlah Road, Fairlight
Inner-West Sydney	The Infants Home Henry Street, Ashfield
Hazelbrook	Hazelwood Childcare Centre 193 Great Western Highway, Hazelbrook
South-west Sydney (Autism)	KU Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre Woodward Park, Liverpool
Victoria	
Craigieburn	Craigieburn Child and Family Centre Windrock Avenue, Craigieburn
St Kilda	Family and Children's Centre 171 Chapel Street, St Kilda

Upwey	Maternal and Child Health Service Corner 1443 Burwood Highway, Upwey
Yarraville	Child and Family Centre Clare Court, 30 Court Street, Yarraville
Moe	Moe ELCC Ted Summerton Reserve, Vale Street, Moe
Port Melbourne	Liardet Street Family and Children's Centre 85 Liardet Street, West Port Melbourne
Broadmeadows (Tullamarine)	Broadmeadows Special Development School Dimboola Road, Broadmeadows
Bendigo	Comet Hill Primary School Sandhurst Road, Bendigo
Foster	Foster ELCC 30 - 32 Pioneer Street, Foster
Hurstbridge	Hurstbridge ELCC 4-8 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge
Melbourne (Autism)	La Trobe University Community Children's Centre Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora
Queensland	
Yamanto	Amberley District State School Deebing Creek Road, Yamanto
Cairns	St Andrew's College Intake Road, Redlynch
Gladstone	Clinton State School Harvey Road, Gladstone
Townsville	Good Shepherd Catholic Community School 65 Allambie Lane, Rasmussen
Weipa	Cape Kids Child Care Centre Wattle Terrace, Weipa
Brisbane (Autism)	Griffith University (Nathan Campus) Recreation Road, Nathan

Western Australia	
Darch	Ashdale Primary School Ashdale Boulevard, Darch
Karratha	Tambrey Primary School Tambrey Drive, Karratha
Mirrabooka	Warriapendi Primary School Redcliffe Avenue, Balga
Port Hedland	TBC
Perth (Autism)	Jellybeans Child Care Centre 121 Ellersdale Road, Warwick
Northern Territory	
Darwin	Wulagi Primary School Brolga Street, Wulagi
Palmerston	Palmerston ELCC Corner Roystonia Avenue and Temple Terrace, Palmerston
South Australia	
Adelaide (Autism)	Anglicare Autism-Specific Child Care Centre Daphne Street, Adelaide
Tasmania	
Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield Primary School 33 Grubb Street, Beaconsfield
North-west Tasmania (Autism)	Alexander Beetle House Children's Centre 34 Alexander Street, Burnie