

# 2026 Health & Development Participation (HDP) Grant – Logic model



Needs/Problems	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes
<p>The <a href="#">2024 Australian Early Development Census</a> (AEDC) data shows that 45.8% of children in NSW start school developmentally off track. We know that many 4-year-old children do not get their recommended health and development check (HDC).</p> <p>The Health and Development Checks in Early Childhood Education and Care (HDC) program is co-led by the NSW Department of Education (DoE) and NSW Health. This program provides free Health and Development Checks to 4-year-old students attending preschool and long day care services. The program is currently available across 15 local health districts within NSW.</p> <p>The NSW Department of Education has received qualitative feedback from the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector on the HDC program implementation to date. Addressing the following ongoing barriers is essential for improving participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workforce capacity</li> <li>• Lack of Allied Health service resources available to support ECEC services in addressing child development needs identified in the HDCs.</li> </ul> <p>Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO)'s <a href="#">2024 research summary</a> indicates that there is a direct link between educator and teacher knowledge of child development and reducing developmental vulnerability in the AEDC.</p> <p>Supporting evidence from the <a href="#">First 2000 Days Framework</a> indicates that children who participate in ECEC, and who get sufficient support services such as HDCs, are more likely to succeed at school and have improved lifelong educational, social, and economic outcomes.</p> <p>The Health and Development Participation (HDP) Grant has been designed to support uptake by ECEC services in the HDC program. In 2025, 862 NSW ECEC services have been awarded Health and Development Participation Grants. This is in addition to the 899 services awarded grants in 2024.</p>	<p>Government commitment from Ministers overseeing delivery of early childhood health and development services through Brighter Beginnings.</p> <p>Existing policies and frameworks that are based on evidence and research (e.g. The First 2000 Days Framework).</p> <p>Existing services, systems and programs delivered by government agencies, including the delivery of Blue Book developmental screening tools.</p> <p>Funding for the Health and Development Check program and support suite documents.</p> <p>Government funding to be delivered to ECEC sector to support engagement in the Health and Development Check program.</p> <p>Staffing from DoE dedicated to delivering the program.</p>	<p>DoE designs and delivers Health and Development Participation Grant to support participation in HDC program.</p> <p>The HDP Grant is divided into two categories to offer targeted support to ECEC services and staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Category 1:</b> Staffing support for participation in the HDC Program</li> <li>• <b>Category 2:</b> Embedding of cohort-wide uplift and strategies in the educational program to support children's health and development, through engagement of allied health professionals and/or other non-government providers to provide professional learning opportunities and support, and the purchase of resources to support children's health and development.</li> </ul> <p>DoE promotes the HDP Grant to eligible services.</p> <p>Approved providers apply for and receive the HDP Grant.</p>	<p>Under Category 1, services access funded staffing supports for HDC program participation.</p> <p>Approved providers who received Category 1 funding take part in the HDC Program in 2026.</p> <p>Under Category 2, cohort-wide capability uplift activities for ECEC staff to support children's health and development are designed and accessed.</p> <p>Approved providers report spending use and feedback on grant process, which supports grant evaluation.</p>	<p>An increase in the number of service providers participating in the HDC Program in 2026.</p> <p>Approved providers' staff, including educators and teachers, engage with cohort-wide capability uplift activities related to the HDC program in 2026.</p> <p>ECEC educators and teachers are equipped with appropriate educational resources to support children's learning and development following the health and development checks.</p>	<p>The HDP Grant supports an increase in the number of eligible services that participate in the HDC Program.</p> <p>An increase in the level of engagement with capacity building activities among ECEC educators and teachers, related to children's health and developmental outcomes on a cohort-wide scale.</p>	<p>ECECs remain consistently engaged in the HDC Program over time.</p> <p><i>This will directly support the Health and Development Checks Program and the following intended outcomes (as found in the <a href="#">HDC logic model</a>):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ECECs remain consistently engaged in delivering checks over time</i></li> <li>• <i>Educators are knowledgeable, skilled and confident to discuss child development with families and support children under their care appropriately</i></li> <li>• <i>ECECs have processes and systems in place to proactively work with families to support the development of children of all ages</i></li> </ul>

## Theory of change

The HDP grant supports not-for-profit preschools and long day cares, Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services, Aboriginal Child and Family Centres, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that deliver ECEC services to participate in the HDC program. The grant offers funding that assists in addressing workforce capacity as a key barrier to participation in the HDC program, and supports ECEC educators and teachers to increase their capacity to support children's developmental needs through delivery of quality early childhood education in accordance with the National Quality Framework while awaiting further assessment and Allied Health support.

By strengthening the capacity and broadening the reach of the Health and Development Checks program, more 4-year-old children will receive this important check and any additional supports will be put in place sooner.

## Program contributes to:

- Achieving the outputs and outcomes of the **Health and Development Checks Program**. The logic model for this program can be found [here](#)