

Early Childhood Education and Care Flexible Initiatives Trial program logic

Supporting providers to deliver flexible or extended models of quality education and care that better meets the needs of families

Fund objective: to increase participation in the State’s workforce, particularly for women, by making quality childcare more affordable and accessible



- **Goal 1** Diverse service models (across service types) that meets diversity of family needs
- **Goal 2** Support ECEC providers and workforce to deliver services that better meet the needs of the community
- **Goal 3** Establish and expand ECE services in thin markets

Problems	Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Short-term outcomes	Medium-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes	Benefits
• Lack of alternative service delivery models for casual or shift worker families • Limited availability of ECEC services in thin markets areas • Workforce shortages limit the ability to offer flexible ECEC services • High operating costs (inc. wages) limit ability to offer more innovative services • ECEC operating hours do not match families working hours • The quality of ECEC services varies across the market • Existing funding models are restrictive • There is low technological and business maturity in the ECEC sector	Existing ECEC facilities and workforce	Provision of grants Development of grant assessment guidelines and supporting resources Number of grant applications by Stream Delivery of grant funding to successful services Number of services awarded grants	Number of grant applications by Stream Number of services awarded grants	ECEC services are better equipped to be inclusive and provide equitable access to meet the needs of families, including from under-served cohorts. Additional ECEC places (by service types, geographies) Greater diversity of ECEC services Technological uplift in ECEC sector Increase in the ECEC workforce to meet flexible service model needs Families are supported to access quality, affordable ECEC. Additional ECEC hours taken up by families (by service types, geographies) Increase in evidence base – inform resource allocation decisions across government	Services are inclusive to the needs of children and families in their community Sustainable and flexible service offerings Families and children face fewer barriers in accessing affordable ECEC, including under-served cohorts, low-income backgrounds, diverse needs, additional needs or experiencing disadvantage, face fewer barriers in accessing ECEC. Increased family satisfaction regarding access to ECEC services Increased ECEC workforce productivity and satisfaction	There is increased enrolment and attendance in ECEC. Families are confident that their needs will be met through ECEC. Families can access quality, affordable ECEC across NSW. Increase in evidence base – inform resource allocation decisions across government	Improved developmental, health and wellbeing outcomes for children. Improved social outcomes. Productivity benefits for parents and carers. Increased workforce participation among parents and carers, particularly women. Increased earnings and retirement benefits for parents and carers, particularly women.
	NSW Government funding (incl CEO Fund)						
	Existing NSW regulatory framework (ie. no regulatory changes)	Options to address problems ECEC places available for families ECEC services that offer flexible operating hours and irregular care arrangements Average utilisation of existing facilities/resources	ECEC places available for families ECEC services that offer flexible operating hours and irregular care arrangements Average utilisation of existing facilities/resources				
	Technology available to families and providers	Flexible service delivery: Trialling new smaller-scale operating model changes within one provider and service type	ECEC services that offer flexible operating hours and irregular care arrangements Average utilisation of existing facilities/resources				
	New ECEC workers	Blended service delivery: Trialling larger-scale innovative operating models through partnerships between multiple service types	New ECEC facilities (eg. FDCs and blended services) Number of FTE staff and staff with capacity to provide flexible services				
	Data and Evidence	Collating and assessing evidence Development and regular utilisation of progress and milestone reports Point in time updates on implementation risks and progress to support future program development Develop program evaluation guidelines to collate data on outcomes/benefits Identification of other innovative solutions to address problems (that may not have been previously identified) Identify examples of best practice and gained lessons learned for program development Evidence bank: data (costs, outcomes and benefits), appraisals and evaluations.	Point in time updates on implementation risks and progress to support future program development Identification of other innovative solutions to address problems (that may not have been previously identified) Evidence bank: data (costs, outcomes and benefits), appraisals and evaluations.				