



Government of
South Australia

Child Safety Grants

Grant guidelines

February 2026

Administered by the Office for Early Childhood Development on
behalf of the Minister for Education Training and Skills

Office for
Early Childhood
Development



Key information

Program	Minister for Education, Training and Skills Child Safety Grants
Eligible organisations	Approved providers of centre based long day care and non-government preschool services with active registration as of 13 February 2026*
Type of funding	One-off grant
Administration	The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) is responsible for administering the grants program on behalf of the Minister for Education, Training and Skills (The Minister).

* See *Who can apply* below for full eligibility requirements.

Key dates

Applications open	18 February 2026
Applications assessed	25 February – 10 April 2026 (Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis on receipt of completed applications)
Applications close	2 April 2026
Notification of outcomes, and grant agreements sent to providers	16 March – 17 April 2026 (Grant agreements will be offered on a rolling basis once assessed)
Grant agreements executed	30 March – 15 May 2026 (Grant agreements will be executed within 4 weeks of receipt from the provider)
Payment made	Within 4 weeks of the agreement being executed
Acquittal	By 30 June 2027

Background

Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children in early childhood education and care (ECEC) is a shared national priority. Governments across Australia have come together to work with the sector to strengthen safety, improve quality and better protect children in early childhood education and care services.

The *Early Childhood Legislation (Child Safety) Amendment Act 2025* will drive the most significant strengthening of child safety requirements in early childhood education and care since the National Quality Framework (NQF) began in 2012.

The reforms will give effect to key recommendations from the Child Safety Review and other priority national actions agreed by Education Ministers in August and October 2025. These legislative changes will:

- strengthen the safety, quality, and accountability of early childhood services
- give families greater confidence in the care and education their children receive
- ensure providers continue to meet the highest standards of safety and professionalism.

Further information on the changes is available on the [ACECQA website](#).

Purpose of the grants

The Government of South Australia is providing one-off grants to approved providers to support them strengthen their existing child safety practices.

Available funding

A total of \$2.2 million is available through the grants.

Grants will be available to eligible ECEC providers, with providers able to apply for a grant for each of its eligible services operating in South Australia.

A provider will apply on behalf of its collective services in accordance with the table below.

Licenced places (per service)	Grant amount (per service)
Up to 50	\$3,000
50-99	\$4,000
100+	\$5,000
Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (regardless of service size)	\$5,000

How to apply

Who can apply

Eligible applicants are providers of centre based long day care and non-government preschool services, including Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, currently operating in South Australia.

The following services are not eligible:

- Department for Education managed sessional preschools
- Family Day Care
- Out of School Hours Care
- Occasional Care and In Home Care services.

Activities that may be funded

- Audit and/or review of policies, procedures and compliance documents aligned to the new requirements under National Law.
- Review of policies, procedures and practices to support active supervision of children.
- Engagement of staff to embed strengthened child safe practices.
- Support for minor physical improvements and purchase of items to address identified risks relating to active supervision, medication management and indoor and outdoor environments.

See the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) for examples of eligible activities.

Application process

1. Eligible applicants will receive an invitation directly from the OECD, via email, when applications open.
2. Applicants will make a submission, through an online platform, by identifying which activities the grant will support, for each of its services, and provide other information necessary for the grant agreement. Further details will be provided by the OECD in the invitation to apply. On average, the application should take between five and 10 minutes to complete, for single service providers.
3. The OECD will assess submissions and prepare a grant agreement for successful applicants.

Funding conditions for applicants

- You must agree to the requirements outlined in these guidelines.
- Only apply if you intend to accept a grant.
- If your application is successful, you must enter into a formal funding agreement.
- If your application is successful, the organisation listed as the applicant will be responsible for receiving and managing the grant funds and all grant reporting and acquittal obligations.

- Grant funds will be provided through a Recipient Created Tax Invoice (RCTI).
- Payment of grants will be made upon execution of the grant agreement.
- Grant recipients must provide an acquittal form with supporting evidence, as per the funding agreement, after the project is completed. This will be short and simple.
- You must return any unspent grant funds, or grant funds not expended in accordance with the funding conditions.
- You must accept responsibility for any costs exceeding the agreed funding amount or unforeseen expenditure. No additional grant funding will be provided.
- You acknowledge, as a provider, that you remain responsible for meeting legal obligations under the National Law, and the receipt of a grant is not a defence against non-compliance.

Support for applicants

Further support is available through:

- answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- Your OECD Local Team
- OECD.ChildSafetyGrants@sa.gov.au