



Government of  
South Australia

# Child Safety Grants

## Frequently asked questions

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

Please read these FAQs in addition to the Grant Guidelines. The Guidelines include critical terms and conditions for accessing the Grant.

### Who can apply?

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

Providers with multiple services under their management can apply on behalf of their collective services operating in South Australia.

Services under the management of an approved provider should not apply individually.

### Will the Child Safety Grants be available on an ongoing basis?

No, the Child Safety Grants are a one-off grant and will not be available beyond the life of this program.

### How much grant funding is available?

A total of \$2.2 million is available through the Child Safety Grants.

Grant funding is available for each service operated by an eligible provider 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

## What activities may be funded through a grant?

Grant funding can be used to support approved providers to strengthen their existing child safety practices through the following activities.

Activity	Examples (note the activity is not limited to these examples)
Auditing and/or reviewing policies, procedures, practices and compliance documents aligned to the new requirements under the National Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revising a Child Safe Environments, Child Protection of Online Safety Policy</li> <li>Developing policies for safe arrival of children</li> <li>Reviewing policies and procedures for digital devices</li> <li>Revising policy and practices for incident, injury, trauma and illness (notifications and records), and medical conditions</li> </ul>
Engaging staff to embed strengthened child safe practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding staff meetings or workshops to discuss child safe policies and how to implement them</li> <li>Implementing actions to strengthen safeguarding systems and practices at your service</li> <li>Identifying and mitigating risks. Visit <a href="#">the ACECQA website</a> for further information and guidance</li> </ul>
Making minor physical improvements and purchasing items to address identified risks relating to active supervision, medication management and indoor and outdoor environments	<p><b>Supervision</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fitting or replacing mirrors or windows to remove blind spots</li> <li>Installing safety signage</li> <li>Replacing full bathroom doors with half-bathroom doors</li> </ul> <p><b>Medication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchasing and fitting appropriate storage solutions to ensure medication is stored safely and outside of children's reach</li> </ul> <p><b>Outdoor and indoor environments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacing fencing that children may be able to go over, under or through</li> <li>Installing additional shade structures</li> <li>Purchasing surface temperature checking devices</li> <li>Purchasing and fitting soft fall and safety mats</li> <li>Replacing cots or bedding</li> <li>Conducting independent safety assessments of the physical environment</li> </ul>
Reviewing policies, procedures and practices to support active supervision of children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting a structured audit of policies &amp; procedures</li> <li>Revising policies and practices to strengthen supervision of children</li> <li>Implementing practice improvements</li> </ul>

The above examples are not exhaustive.

Any improvements made to a service must comply with relevant regulations and may need to be approved by the regulator or other authority. The responsibility for checking and meeting such requirements rests with the provider.

The [Education Standards Board SA](#) and [ACECQA](#) websites provide guidance, fact sheets and assessment tools to assist providers and services meet regulatory requirements.

## **What won't be funded?**

Activities that are inconsistent with the purpose of the grants and the activities that may be funded, as outlined in the Guidelines.

For example, wage replacement or backfill for the completion of the mandatory child safety training.

## **Why is support for completing national mandatory child safety training not an activity that can be funded?**

The Child Safety Grants complement funding by the Australian Government to support eligible early childhood education and care (ECEC) providers with wage costs for ECEC workers undertaking mandatory national child safety training through an extension of the Professional Development Subsidy to support the backfilling of staff or paying allowances to educators if training is undertaken outside of regular work hours.

Child Care Subsidy-approved services will additionally be permitted to close, up to five times per year from 5pm, while claiming the subsidy for that time.

## **Can providers apply for a grant if they don't know exactly what it will be spent on?**

Yes, so long as the provider is clear which broad-level activity(s) it intends to use the grant funding on. Providers will be able to spend the funds any time before 30 June 2027, provided the funding is spent in a manner that is consistent with the grant guidelines, and the grant agreement.

## **If a provider has multiple services, can that funding be pooled to make safety improvements at a single service?**

No, grant funding must be invested in the service for which it was received.

## **Can providers/services combine their own funding with grant funding to enable a greater investment on an activity?**

Yes, provided it is spent on one of the activities that are listed in the grant guidelines, and it is used to support the service for which the grant funding was received.

## How do eligible providers apply?

The Office for Early Childhood Development (OECD) will make direct contact with eligible providers, by email, and invite them to apply for a grant.

## How should providers with multiple provider numbers apply?

Providers that operate under multiple provider numbers, will need to complete an application for each provider number they would like considered as part of their application.

## What should an eligible provider do if they didn't receive an invitation to apply?

Approved providers that have not received an invitation from the OECD, and believe they meet the eligibility criteria, can contact [OECD.ChildSafetyGrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:OECD.ChildSafetyGrants@sa.gov.au)

## What are the key dates associated with the Child Safety Grants?

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

## When will providers know if they have been successful?

Applications will be assessed on a rolling first come first served basis.

Providers should be advised of the outcome within approximately 4 weeks from date of application.

## How long do providers have to spend the grant?

Providers must spend the grant funding in time to acquit grants by 30 June 2027.

## Where can I go for more information?

Speak with your OECD Local Team or contact [OECD.ChildSafetyGrants@sa.gov.au](mailto:OECD.ChildSafetyGrants@sa.gov.au)

### Local Teams

Contact	Email
Region 1: Adelaide CBD, eastern suburbs	<a href="mailto:OECD.CentralandEast@sa.gov.au">OECD.CentralandEast@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 2: Western suburbs	<a href="mailto:OECD.InnerWest@sa.gov.au">OECD.InnerWest@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 3: Inner southern suburbs	<a href="mailto:OECD.InnerSouth@sa.gov.au">OECD.InnerSouth@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 4: Inner northern suburbs, Adelaide Hills	<a href="mailto:OECD.NorthandHills@sa.gov.au">OECD.NorthandHills@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 5: Outer northern suburbs, Barossa Valley	<a href="mailto:OECD.OuterNorth@sa.gov.au">OECD.OuterNorth@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 6: Outer southern suburbs, Fleurieu Peninsula	<a href="mailto:OECD.OuterSouth@sa.gov.au">OECD.OuterSouth@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 7: Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula, Outback	<a href="mailto:OECD.CountryNorth@sa.gov.au">OECD.CountryNorth@sa.gov.au</a>
Region 8: Murraylands, Riverland, Limestone Coast	<a href="mailto:OECD.CountrySouth@sa.gov.au">OECD.CountrySouth@sa.gov.au</a>

For more information on which Local Team to contact, visit the [OECD website](#).