



Lennox Head Community Preschool Inc

"Children are worth the effort
Today, Tomorrow and Beyond."

21 Mackney Lane
Lennox Head 2478

Ph: 02 66877105

Fax: 02 66877181

EMAIL: mail@lennoxheadcommunitypreschool.com.au

Website: www.lennoxheadcommunitypreschool.com.au

▶ The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
40 Cherry Street
BALLINA NSW 2478

9 May 2016

Attention: Amy Cahill

Dear Sir,

Re: Capital Works Grants Program – New Pre-School Services

The Lennox Head Community Pre-School (the Pre-School) intends to apply for the NSW Department of Education's Capital Works Program through an EOI/RFT process which closes on 23 May 2016. This program provides funding grants to existing pre-schools to increase the number of pre-school places in areas where there is a demonstrated shortage. The Pre-School's application for grant funding will be on the basis of the total cost of the construction of a new pre-school to be located within Lennox Head, on Council owned land which has been dedicated for community uses through the Ballina Shire Contributions Plan 2008 or any other surplus land available for Community Uses.

On 20 April 2016 the Pre-School made an enquiry to Council as to the availability of land within Lennox Head, which is appropriate for Community Uses, in particular an additional Community Pre-School. Further to this, an email was received from Ms Amy Cahill on 27 April 2016, outlining Council's request for further information before Council could consider this request.

The Pre-School provides the following response:

I. The pre-school's intention to investigate the grant on offer.

Answered above, however contingent on the Council's commitment to land available for community uses by 23 May 2016.

2. The licensing requirements (i.e., the only preschool licenses available are to those who already hold one)

The following has been taken directly from the DEC website and details the licensing requirements as they relate to the Pre-School.

<http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/what-we-offer/regulation-and-accreditation/early-childhood-education-care/funding/grants-program>

Funding will be provided for:

- building new preschool services
- expanding an existing centre-based service

To be eligible for funding under this grants program, applicants must:

- Hold a valid Provider Approval to operate an early childhood education and care service in NSW.
- Be registered or incorporated in NSW as a not-for-profit organisation or association with appropriate governance mechanisms and sound financial management.
- Operate, or intend to operate, a mobile or centre based community preschool service with a valid service approval.
- Comply with the requirements of the applicable national law and regulations for the service type being operated.

Community preschools in all areas of NSW are invited to complete an Expression of Interest. However only those services where it can be demonstrated that there is significant demand for preschool places for children in the year before full-time school; or children aged three and above from Aboriginal and low-income families will be invited to apply for funding under this program.

3. The pre-school's waiting list

The current waiting list for those children starting school next year is approximately 30. The current total waiting list is approximately 185 children aged between 3 and 5. On average, the pre-school receives 3 applications per week.

The Pre-School currently has 130 children in attendance per week. The current program is for 39 children in the 3 to 4 years age group to attend on one day (Wednesday) and 96 children in the 4 to 5 years group to attend two consecutive days, in either group 1 - Monday and Tuesday or group 2 - Thursday and Friday.

Based on the 2011 census, the population of the Ballina Shire is forecast to grow by approximately 1.0% to 2036. Of this total, Lennox Head is anticipated to grow by approximately the same rate to 2026 and further by close to double this at 1.9% between 2026 and 2036. This growth in population, coupled with the existing waiting lists, further demonstrates a future demand and need for additional pre-school services within Lennox Head.

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Population summary									
Ballina Shire									
Area	2011	2016	2021	2026	Forecast Year				
					Avg. annual % change - 2016-2026	2031	2036	Total change	Avg. annual % change - 2026-2036
Ballina Shire	40,754	42,506	44,615	46,814	1.01%	48,997	51,307	+10,553	0.96%
East Ballina	5,576	5,741	5,745	5,598	-0.25%	5,503	5,498	-78	-0.18%
Lennox Head	6,324	6,721	6,971	7,375	0.97%	8,027	8,762	+2,438	1.88%

* Source - Population and Household forecasts, 2011 to 2036, prepared by .id, the population experts.

4. A short summary which sets out the difference between 'preschool' and 'long day care' and the fact that the Lennox Head Community Pre-School is the only preschool in Lennox Head;

The definition of Pre-School and Long Day Care Centre has been taken from the following website:
<http://www.preschoolsnsw.org.au-Preschools>

Preschools

Preschools provide an educational program in a dedicated preschool setting catering for children aged between three and five years of age. These services are primarily for children in the two years before they commence full-time schooling. Children generally may attend a number of days per week. Most services operate between 9am–3pm during school terms only. Some families using preschools are eligible for fee support through funding the preschool receives from the State Government. Some preschools are classified as Registered Care and families are able to claim a small rebate, via the Commonwealth Government's Family Assistance Office. Preschools are open an average of 40 weeks per year and don't charge for school holidays, which makes fees more affordable.

Long Day Care Centres

Long day care centres (also known as childcare centres) are primarily children from birth–to–5 year olds, and are provided in a centre-based environment, usually by a mix of qualified and other staff. Long day care centres generally open for at least eight hours per day and run for 48-50 weeks a year.

Long day care centres also provide educational programs. Some long day care centres use the word kindergarten or preschool in their names so sometimes it is confusing to identify what sort of service a centre is, particularly as long day care centres are a mix of not-for-profit and for profit operators. The easiest way to tell if a centre is a preschool or a long day care centre is by the number of hours they operate and the number of weeks open per year. Generally, preschool hours are shorter.

Families using services other than preschools are eligible for fee assistance from the Commonwealth Government through the Child Care Benefit system and the Child Care Tax Rebate.

9.5 Lennox Head Community Preschool.DOC

The Pre-School operates with the same set of children attending the same regular days with the same staff, generally within groups dictated by the school they will attend. The govt. requirement for funding is that children (the year before school) have the opportunity to attend a preschool for 600 hours per year (15 hours per week)

The Pre-School is currently the only dedicated Community Pre-School in Lennox Head, the nearest being located in Fox Street, Ballina. It is our opinion that the Pre-School has its existing waiting list due to a number of factors, such as the distance from Ballina and the growth in both the number of residents and business opportunities in Lennox Head in recent years. The emergence of Lennox Head/Skennars Head as a separate, distinct community with its own local schools also identifies the area as distinctly separate from Ballina, encouraging families to seek local schooling opportunities for their children, to ensure close bonds are made in the years leading into the commencement of formal education.

5. Confirmation that between the Grant funding (if successful) and the preschools current financial position, the only contribution from Council would be the granting of a lease over a parcel of land.

We confirm that between the Grant funding (if successful) and the Pre-School's current finances, that the only requirement from Council in this regard, is a lease over a parcel of land for the purposes of the development of a new pre-school in Lennox Head.

We therefore request that Council investigate the availability of any land for Community Uses, particularly a Community Pre-School, which will provide additional and highly demanded pre-school places to the current and future residents of Lennox Head. The Capital Works Program RFT process closes on 23 May 2016 and it would be greatly appreciated if we could get your response to our query by Friday 20 May 2016. Please don't hesitate to contact Jannette Leonard on 02 6687 7105 should you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



On behalf of the Lennox Head Pre-School Inc

Grants program

The department funds early childhood education and care in NSW through a series of grants programs.

There are a number of early childhood grants programs in place. Some of these support the direct delivery of early childhood education and care services by not-for-profit providers. Others fund specific early childhood projects, assistance for children with special needs and early childhood sector development

Capital Works Grants

On 20 November 2015 the Minister for Early Childhood Education, Leslie Williams MP, announced funding of \$8 million over four years to create up to 500 new preschool places through a Capital Works Grants program.

The Capital Works Grants program will provide grants funding for not-for-profit, community based preschool providers proposing to increase the number of 600 hour preschool places available in areas where there is a demonstrated shortage.

Funding will be provided for:

- building new preschool services
- expanding an existing centre-based service
- purchasing a new motor vehicle for an existing mobile preschool service
- other capital works delivering innovative solutions to increase the number of preschool places in areas of high need.

To be eligible for funding under this grants program, applicants must:

- Hold a valid Provider Approval to operate an early childhood education and care service in NSW.
- Be registered or incorporated in NSW as a not-for-profit organisation or association with appropriate governance mechanisms and sound financial management.
- Operate, or intend to operate, a mobile or centre based community preschool service with a valid service approval.
- Comply with the requirements of the applicable national law and regulations for the service type being operated.
- Mobile service providers applying for funding under this program must operate an approved mobile preschool as defined by the Department.

Community preschools in all areas of NSW are invited to complete an Expression of Interest. However only those services where it can be demonstrated that there is significant demand for preschool places for children in the year before full-time school; or children aged three and above from Aboriginal and low-income families will be invited to apply for funding under this program.

How to apply

A market briefing webinar was held on **Wednesday 6 April 2016** at 3.30pm. The webinar provides important information on the eligibility criteria for this grants program and how to apply for funding. To watch the market briefing webinar please click [here](#).

To apply for funding under this program, you will need to register with Ariba, [here](#).

For more information contact Partnerships and Programs on: 1300 755 426 or email:eccc.funding@det.nsw.edu.