



## Early Learning and Care Centres

### Background

In the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government committed \$114.5 million to establish 38 Early Learning and Care Centres. These centres, including six Autism specific centres, will provide integrated early learning and care in a long day care setting that takes into account the specific requirements of the local community. The 38 ELCCs are being established in priority locations across Australia. Where possible, these centres are located on school grounds, TAFE, university or other community land.

The six Autism specific centres provide dedicated early learning and care programs for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

The funding includes both the capital costs and the ongoing costs of establishing additional child care places, including Child Care Benefit and Child Care Rebate.

The collapse of ABC Learning and the steps that the Australian Government had to take to stabilise the market following the insolvency of its largest provider has resulted in a completely different market that does not reflect the environment in which the original commitment was made. On 22 April 2012, the Australian Government announced that it would not be proceeding with an additional 222 ELCCs.

### Purpose

The purpose of the establishment of the ELCCs is to provide integrated early learning and care in a long day care setting that takes into account the specific requirements of the local community. A number of centres will be incorporated into the development of other facilities. Examples include redevelopment of schools, preschools, children and family centres and health facilities, such as GP Super Clinics.

All ELCC service providers are required to:

- be responsive to local needs;
- be inclusive of all children, including those with additional needs;
- provide integrated learning and care programs; and
- provide affordable child care.

### Funding

The funding of \$114.5 million comprises \$96.8 million DEEWR funding and \$17.8 million FaHCSIA funding over four years for the establishment of the 38 centres.

The amount of Australian Government funding contributed to each centre has varied, depending on the scope of the proposed project, size of the centre and local construction costs.

The Australian Government has allocated an average of \$1.7m in capital funding for each of the locations, however, this is an Australia-wide average. Given this, the contribution for centres in high cost areas will be higher than for those in metropolitan areas.

The Australian Government is looking to achieve best value for money and sought opportunities for co-investment from interested parties, including local government authorities, community organisations,



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independent schools and private enterprise. Funding is not provided for the purchase of land and in many instances, other parties are also contributing towards the construction costs.

The Australian, state and territory governments are working together to deliver the 38 centres. Where states and territories elected to manage the establishment of the centres, they received and administered the capital funding. Where the relevant state or territory government elected not to manage the construction, an open and competitive application process, managed by the Australian Government, was undertaken. In these circumstances, a single entity, consortium or a partnership from the private, community and/or public sectors was able to apply.

Ownership of the centre will depend on who owns the land on which the facility is built. If the land is state land, the state will own the facility. If the land is owned by a community group, ownership of the facility will rest with that community group unless otherwise agreed. In all cases, the Australian Government requires a purposes agreement, or other safeguard, to ensure that the land and facility is used for the provision of a high quality early learning and care program for an appropriate period of time (in most cases a minimum period of 20 years).

The ongoing maintenance of the building will be determined by agreement between the building owner and the service provider. The Australian Government contribution does not include provision for ongoing maintenance. On that basis, service providers are expected to have a business model that generates sufficient revenue to cover the on-going costs of delivering their service.

### Progress update

The locations for 33 of the centres, including one Autism specific centre, were announced during the 2007 Federal Election Campaign. Since then, a further five locations have been announced for Autism specific Early Learning and Care Centres.

Progress continues to be made in relation to most sites with 35 of the 38 centres now operational. Three centres are currently being constructed.

A more detailed summary of the operational status and location of each ELCC is at **Attachment A**.



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### Attachment A: Early Learning and Care Centres

#### ELCCs in construction

NEW SOUTH WALES	
Hazelbrook	Hazelwood Childcare Centre 193 Great Western Highway, Hazelbrook
VICTORIA	
Hurstbridge	Hurstbridge ELCC 4-8 Graysharps Road, Hurstbridge
Port Melbourne	Liardet Street Family and Children's Centre 85 Liardet Street, West Port Melbourne

#### ELCCs completed and operational

NEW SOUTH WALES	
Bondi Junction	Bondi Junction ELCC Ebley Street, Bondi Junction
Fairlight	Roundhouse Child Care Facility Balgowlah Road, Fairlight
Faulconbridge	Faulconbridge Public School Grose Road, Faulconbridge
Inner-West Sydney	The Infants Home Henry Street, Ashfield
Killara	Abbotsleigh School Woonona Avenue, Wahroonga
Milperra	Milperra Public School Pozieres Avenue, Milperra
Newcastle	Merewether Heights Public School Cedar Crescent, Merewether Heights, Newcastle
North Ryde	North Ryde Public School



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	Cox's Road, North Ryde
Queanbeyan	Queanbeyan South Public School Cameron Road, Queanbeyan
South-west Sydney (Autism)	KU Autism Specific Early Learning and Care Centre Woodward Park, Liverpool
<b>VICTORIA</b>	
Atherton Gardens	Atherton Gardens Family and Children's Community Hub, Brunswick Street, Fitzroy
Bendigo	Comet Hill Primary School Sandhurst Road, Bendigo
Broadmeadows (Tullamarine)	Broadmeadows Special Development School Dimboola Road, Broadmeadows
Craigieburn	Craigieburn Child and Family Centre Windrock Avenue, Craigieburn
Foster	Foster ELCC 30 - 32 Pioneer Street, Foster
Melbourne (Autism)	La Trobe University Community Children's Centre Kingsbury Drive, Bundoora
Moe	Moe ELCC Ted Summerton Reserve, Vale Street, Moe
St Kilda	Family and Children's Centre 171 Chapel Street, St Kilda
Upwey	Maternal and Child Health Service Corner 1443 Burwood Highway, Upwey
Yarraville	Child and Family Centre Clare Court, 30 Court Street, Yarraville
<b>QUEENSLAND</b>	
Brisbane (Autism)	Griffith University (Nathan Campus) Recreation Road, Nathan
Cairns	St Andrew's College Intake Road, Redlynch
Gladstone	Clinton State School



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	Harvey Road, Gladstone
Townsville	Good Shepherd Catholic Community School 65 Allambie Lane, Rasmussen
Weipa	Cape Kids Child Care Centre Wattle Terrace, Weipa
Yamanto	Amberley District State School Deebing Creek Road, Yamanto
<b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>	
Darch	Ashdale Primary School Ashdale Boulevard, Darch
Karratha	Tambrey Primary School Tambrey Drive, Karratha
Mirrabooka	Warriapendi Primary School Redcliffe Avenue, Balga
Perth (Autism)	Jellybeans Child Care Centre 121 Ellersdale Road, Warwick
<b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b>	
Darwin	Wulagi Primary School Brolga Street, Wulagi
Palmerston	Palmerston ELCC Corner Roystonia Avenue and Temple Terrace, Palmerston
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	
Adelaide (Autism)	Anglicare Autism-Specific Child Care Centre Daphne Street, Adelaide
<b>TASMANIA</b>	
Beaconsfield	Beaconsfield Primary School 33 Grubb Street, Beaconsfield
North-west Tasmania (Autism)	Alexander Beetle House Children's Centre 34 Alexander Street, Burnie

