

Northern Territory Kindergartens

Recommended Funding Pathway

Project Funding Case: Priority Infrastructure (NT)

Pathway: Priority Infrastructure Grant (Early Childhood)

Target: Permanent Capital Works / Facility Upgrade

Funding & Submission Schedule (2026)

- **Round 1 (Primary Round):** Opens 28 April 2026 | Closes 3 July 2026
- **Funding Outcome:** Expected September 2026
- **Project Commencement:** Immediately following outcome notification.

Grant Description

The Priority Infrastructure Grant is a specialized capital works fund managed by the Northern Territory Department of Education. It is specifically designed to support community-based early childhood services in maintaining and upgrading their physical facilities. The grant prioritizes permanent infrastructure projects that improve the safety, accessibility, and inclusive capacity of the learning environment, ensuring services meet the National Quality Standard (NQS) for physical environments.

Project Title

Capital Upgrade: Permanent Inclusive Sensory Infrastructure

Service Overview

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is committed to the continuous improvement of our physical environment to meet the National Quality Standard (NQS) for inclusion. We prioritize the procurement of high-durability, professional-grade assets that enhance the accessibility of our outdoor learning spaces for children with diverse sensory requirements.

Project Description

This project involves the procurement and permanent installation of precision-engineered acoustic instruments (The Explorer and The Composer). Constructed from 316L marine-grade stainless steel, these units are designed as permanent architectural fixtures. They provide controlled tactile and auditory feedback, creating a dedicated, weather-resilient sensory regulation station within the kindergarten's existing outdoor footprint.

Justification of Need

Our facility requires a permanent infrastructure solution to address gaps in inclusive outdoor play. Standard equipment often lacks the acoustic precision and material durability required for high-traffic, tropical environments. By installing these instruments, the service provides a permanent "reasonable adjustment" to the physical environment, ensuring equitable access for children with sensory processing sensitivities.

Community & Facility Benefit

This investment secures a long-term community asset. The 316L stainless steel construction ensures a 25-year structural lifespan. This reduces the future financial and operational burden on the Kindergarten Management Committee while providing a world-class inclusive resource for families in the region.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
Composer Sensory Instrument	1	\$4,500
Mounting Hardware	2	\$600
NT Regional Freight	1	\$850
Professional Permanent Installation	1	\$3,000
Total Project Cost		\$13,450
Funding Requested		\$13,450

Budget Justification

The budget covers the full lifecycle of the capital works, including professional installation to ensure compliance with Australian Safety Standards (AS 4685) and warranty requirements. The "Zero-Surfacing" design eliminates the need for specialized soft-fall, ensuring the entirety of the grant is directed toward high-value, permanent hardware.

Sustainability & Maintenance

The 316L stainless steel construction ensures a 25-year structural lifespan. Maintenance is limited to standard, periodic safety inspections as part of the service's existing grounds management routine. No specialized chemical treatments or external service contracts are required, ensuring the asset remains cost-neutral for the life of the instrument.

Evaluation & Acquittal

Project success will be evidenced by the successful installation and safety certification of the assets. The instruments will be formally added to the service's asset register and integrated into regular environmental safety audits.

Appendix: Funding Information & Resources

Pathway: Priority Infrastructure Grant (Early Childhood) **Governing Body:** Northern Territory Department of Education

To assist with your application, please refer to the following official resources and submission portals. It is recommended that the Kindergarten Management Committee reviews these links to ensure organizational registration is current prior to the opening of the 2026 funding round.

Official Grant Resources

- **Application Portal:** [GrantsNT \(grantsnt.nt.gov.au\)](https://grantsnt.nt.gov.au)
 - *Action:* All applications must be submitted via this portal. Ensure your service is registered and committee details are up to date.
 - **Program Guidelines:** [Early Childhood Provider Funding](#)
 - *Information:* Access the full "Priority Infrastructure" guidelines, eligibility criteria, and regional loading information.
 - **Strategic Alignment:** [Safe Start, Strong Futures Plan 2026](#)
 - *Information:* This plan outlines the NT Government's commitment to "Targeted Investment" in physical environments (Pillar 2), which directly supports this infrastructure upgrade.
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Direct Departmental Contact

For inquiries regarding specific site eligibility, leaseholder consent for permanent installation, or technical assistance with the GrantsNT portal:

- **Email:** ecggrantsubsidy.doe@education.nt.gov.au
- **Department:** Office of Early Childhood, NT Department of Education.

Submission Checklist

1. **Grant Window:** Prepare for a **28 April 2026** opening.
2. **Quote:** Ensure a current formal quote for the instruments and professional installation is attached to your submission.
3. **Site Consent:** If the land is leased, confirm you have written permission from the landowner for permanent installation works.