

## **Tasmanian Kindergartens (Early Childhood Services)**

Recommended Funding Pathway

### **Education and Care Unit Tasmania – Education & Care Grants Program**

#### **Application information and guidelines:**

<https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/grants/project-grants/>

This program provides funding to early childhood education and care services to improve the quality of education, strengthen inclusive practices, and enhance learning environments for young children.

Funding rounds open periodically throughout the year. Services are encouraged to monitor the website for current application periods.

#### **Project Positioning**

For this grant, the project should be positioned as:

- an enhancement to the quality of the early learning environment
- a support for inclusion, accessibility, and participation
- a sensory-based space that supports regulation and engagement
- a long-term improvement to the physical learning environment

Avoid positioning the project as:

- general playground equipment
- a music-based activity or program
- a discretionary or non-essential addition

## **Project Title**

Creation of an Inclusive Outdoor Sensory and Wellbeing Space

## **Service Overview**

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is an early childhood education and care service committed to providing high-quality, inclusive learning experiences for young children.

The service supports children across a range of developmental stages and abilities and places strong emphasis on wellbeing, engagement, and participation within a safe and supportive environment.

Educators are focused on creating environments that support the whole child, including emotional regulation, social development, and active engagement in learning.

## **Project Description**

This project involves the creation of an inclusive outdoor sensory and wellbeing space within the kindergarten environment, consisting of permanently installed, interactive elements designed to support engagement, exploration, and participation.

The space will provide opportunities for children to engage in sensory-rich, non-verbal experiences that support emotional regulation, creativity, and social interaction.

The inclusion of multiple interactive elements enables simultaneous use, allowing children to engage together and supporting collaborative play and shared experiences.

The installation is designed as a permanent addition to the learning environment, contributing to the overall quality and functionality of the outdoor space.

The space will be embedded into daily practice, supporting both structured learning experiences and child-led play.

## **Need for the Project**

There is an increasing need within early childhood settings for environments that support diverse developmental and sensory needs.

Many children benefit from opportunities for non-verbal expression, sensory exploration, and self-regulation. Traditional outdoor environments do not always provide adequate support for these needs, particularly for children who require alternative pathways to engagement.

This project addresses this need by creating an environment that supports a broader range of learning styles and developmental needs, enabling all children to participate meaningfully.

The project also supports the growing focus on wellbeing and mental health in early childhood education by providing a space where children can regulate, reset, and engage in a positive and supported way.

## **Inclusion and Participation**

This project will significantly enhance inclusion by providing an environment that supports all children to participate meaningfully in play and learning.

The space will:

- support children with diverse sensory and developmental needs
- provide accessible, engaging opportunities for all learners
- reduce barriers to participation
- encourage cooperative and inclusive play

The design ensures that children can engage independently or alongside others, without requiring specific skills or instruction, supporting a wide range of abilities.

## **Outcomes**

The project is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- increased engagement in outdoor learning
- improved emotional regulation and wellbeing
- enhanced inclusion for children with diverse needs
- increased opportunities for collaborative and social play
- a more responsive and supportive learning environment

These outcomes contribute directly to improved learning experiences and developmental outcomes for children.

## Alignment with Quality Standards

This project aligns with key elements of the National Quality Framework, including:

Quality Area 1 – Educational program and practice

Supports engagement, exploration, and diverse learning experiences

Quality Area 3 – Physical environment

Enhances the learning environment through purposeful, inclusive design

Quality Area 5 – Relationships with children

Supports positive interactions, shared experiences, and emotional wellbeing

The project contributes to continuous improvement against these standards.

## Project Delivery

The project will involve:

- procurement of outdoor sensory infrastructure
- delivery and installation within the kindergarten setting
- integration into daily learning and play

The space will be incorporated into both educator-led experiences and child-directed play, ensuring consistent use and impact.

Installation will be carried out by a qualified contractor in accordance with site requirements.

## Budget

Total Project Cost: \$15,030

Funding Requested: \$7,500

Service Contribution: \$7,530

All costs are GST exclusive

## Budget Breakdown

Explorer Outdoor Musical Instrument	Quantity: 2	\$7,900
Composer Outdoor Musical Instrument	Quantity: 1	\$4,150
In-ground Post Mounts	Quantity: 3	\$900
Freight to Tasmania		\$580
Installation Allowance		\$1,500

## **Budget Justification**

The proposed funding request represents a contribution toward the development of an inclusive outdoor sensory and wellbeing space.

The service will co-contribute to the project, demonstrating commitment to delivering a high-quality and impactful improvement to the learning environment.

The inclusion of multiple interactive elements ensures that the space can support group participation and inclusive engagement, increasing its overall benefit to children.

All components are designed for permanent outdoor installation and are constructed from durable materials suitable for long-term use, with an expected lifespan exceeding 20 years.

The project requires minimal ongoing maintenance and will continue to deliver value over time without the need for additional funding.

The funding request has been structured to align with typical grant amounts, while ensuring the project can be completed through a combination of grant funding and service contribution.

## **Sustainability**

The installation is designed as a long-term addition to the learning environment.

It is constructed from durable materials suitable for outdoor conditions and requires minimal maintenance. Its longevity ensures that it will continue to support children's development and wellbeing over many years.

As a permanent feature of the environment, the space will remain embedded in daily practice without the need for ongoing funding.

## **Evaluation**

The success of the project will be evaluated through:

- observation of children's engagement and participation
- educator feedback on usage and impact
- feedback from families
- increased utilisation of outdoor learning spaces
- observed improvements in inclusion and interaction

Evaluation will be ongoing and inform future planning and development.

## **Application Considerations**

Projects of this nature are strongest when clearly linked to improvements in the quality of the learning environment and the inclusion of all children.

Positioning the project as a sensory and wellbeing space that supports engagement, regulation, and participation aligns closely with the intent of the funding program.

Emphasising long-term impact, inclusion, and developmental outcomes will strengthen the application and demonstrate clear value.