

## New South Wales Kindergartens (Early Childhood Services)

Supplementary Funding Pathway

### Local Council Community Grants (Where Available)

Example: City of Parramatta

**Grant information:** <https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/community/community-grants> Local councils across New South Wales commonly offer community grant programs to support projects that improve wellbeing, participation, and local engagement. While typically smaller in value, these grants are one of the most accessible and commonly used funding sources for community-based early childhood projects. Availability, funding amounts, eligibility criteria, and opening dates vary between councils and funding rounds. While not guaranteed, these grants are widely available and can provide valuable partial funding. Services are encouraged to check their local council website or contact their local council directly to confirm current opportunities.

**Project Positioning** For this funding pathway, the project should be positioned as:

- an inclusive early childhood initiative aligned with the **Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)**
- a space supporting development, wellbeing, and participation (**EYLF Outcome 3**)
- a sensory-based environment that supports regulation and engagement
- a contribution to the local community and **Transition to School** programs

Avoid positioning the project as:

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

**Project Title** [Insert Suburb] Inclusive Outdoor Sensory and Wellbeing Space for Early Learning

**Service Overview** [Insert Service Name] is an early childhood education and care service supporting young children and families within the local community. The service plays an important role in early development and contributes to community wellbeing through engagement with families and inclusive learning environments. Applications for funding may be submitted by the service or an appropriate not-for-profit entity associated with the service, such as a management body, P&F Association, or community partner.

**Project Description** This project involves the creation of an inclusive outdoor sensory and wellbeing space within the early childhood 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 design supports simultaneous use, encouraging shared experiences and promoting cooperative engagement among children and families. The project will enhance the learning environment while also contributing to community connection through family engagement, playgroups, and shared experiences.

**Community Need** Communities benefit from early childhood environments that support inclusion, wellbeing, and engagement from a young age. Many children benefit from opportunities for sensory exploration, non-verbal expression, and emotional regulation, particularly those with additional needs or those requiring alternative pathways to participation. These environments are not always readily available within existing early childhood settings. This project addresses that need by creating a space that supports diverse developmental needs, reduces barriers to participation, and enables meaningful engagement for all children within the **[Insert Council Name]** area.

**Community Benefit** This project will deliver benefits to children, families, and the local community by creating a space that supports inclusion, wellbeing, and connection. The space will:

- support children with diverse developmental and sensory needs
- provide opportunities for families to engage in shared experiences during Transition to School programs
- strengthen early childhood participation and inclusion
- contribute to a more inclusive and supportive community environment

Supporting early intervention and development during the formative years has a long-term positive impact on community wellbeing. The installation will be used regularly within the service and support ongoing community engagement.

**Outcomes** The project is expected to deliver the following outcomes:

- increased engagement in early learning
- improved emotional regulation and wellbeing (aligned with EYLF targets)
- enhanced inclusion for children with diverse needs
- increased opportunities for social and cooperative play
- strengthened engagement between children, families, and the wider community

**Project Delivery** The project will involve:

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

Installation will be carried out by a qualified contractor in accordance with site requirements and Australian Safety Standards (AS 4685).

### **Budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total</b>
Explorer Outdoor Musical Instrument	2	\$7,900
Composer Outdoor Musical Instrument	1	\$4,150
In-ground Post Mounts	3	\$900
Freight (indicative)	1	\$580
Installation Allowance	1	\$1,500
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>\$15,030</b>
<b>Funding Requested</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Service Contribution</b>		<b>\$10,030</b>

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*All costs are GST exclusive*

**Pricing Note** Costs provided are indicative to support funding applications. Final pricing, including freight and installation, may vary depending on location, instrument selection, and site requirements. Applicants are encouraged to obtain a formal quote to confirm project costs.

**Budget Justification** The proposed funding request represents a partial contribution toward the development of an inclusive outdoor sensory and wellbeing space. The service will contribute the remaining funding (over 65% of the total cost), demonstrating strong commitment to delivering the project and ensuring its completion. By utilizing "Zero-Surfacing" infrastructure, the service is redirecting significant capital away from expensive rubber soft-fall and into high-quality hardware, ensuring maximum value for the grant. The installation is designed as a long-term asset, providing ongoing benefit to children and the community.

**Sustainability** The installation is designed as a permanent addition to the learning environment. It is constructed from durable, 316L stainless steel suitable for outdoor conditions and is a high-durability asset. Its 25-year structural longevity ensures ongoing value for children and families over many years with no recurring surfacing maintenance costs.

**Evaluation** The success of the project will be evaluated through:

- observation of children's engagement and participation
- feedback from educators and families regarding inclusion
- increased use of outdoor learning spaces for emotional regulation
- improved social interaction and cooperative play

Evaluation will be ongoing and inform future pedagogical planning.

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**Application Considerations** Local council grants are most successful when projects clearly demonstrate community benefit and local impact. Positioning the project as an inclusive early childhood environment that supports both children and families will strengthen the application. Focusing on participation, inclusion, and early development outcomes (EYLF) will align closely with local government priorities.