

South Australian Kindergartens & Early Learning Centres

Supplementary Funding Pathway

Credit Union SA – School Impact Program

Grant Information: <https://www.creditunionsa.com.au/community/school-impact-program>

The **School Impact Program** is the **Supplementary** pathway for South Australian Kindergartens. This corporate initiative is designed to help South Australians thrive by funding innovative projects that enhance wellbeing and learning environments. With grants available up to **\$20,000**, it is an ideal fit for centres looking to install high-quality, inclusive sensory infrastructure that falls outside of standard operational budgets. The 2026 round is currently open, with applications closing on **July 2, 2026**.

Project Positioning

For this supplementary pathway, the project should be positioned as an **"Early Years Wellbeing Innovation."** Focus on how the hub provides a "Low-Arousal" retreat that supports foundational self-regulation and emotional health. With the 2026 phase-in of **3-year-old preschool** in South Australia, it is essential to highlight how this infrastructure supports the diverse sensory needs of younger cohorts, ensuring they "thrive" from their very first day in the education system.

Avoid positioning the project as:

Standard playground equipment, "musical toys," or a general landscaping upgrade. Do not frame it as a reaction to "problem behaviour"; instead, focus on it as a proactive, **neurodiversity-affirming tool** that supports the **SA Autism Strategy** and enhances the overall "thriving" outcome for every child in the centre.

Project Title

[Insert Kindergarten Name] The Harmony Project: Fostering Early Years Wellbeing and Innovation

Service Overview

[Insert Kindergarten Name] is a forward-thinking early learning centre committed to the holistic development of our youngest learners. We recognize that for children to reach their potential, they need an environment that supports their sensory and emotional health. Supported by our Parent Management Committee, this project aims to introduce world-class, acoustically engineered innovation into our outdoor curriculum to ensure our centre remains a leader in inclusive early childhood education.

Project Description

This project involves the creation of "**The Harmony Hub**"—a specialized outdoor sensory space featuring precision-tuned, architectural-grade acoustic instruments. Unlike standard percussive play, these instruments provide a tactile and harmonious auditory experience designed to facilitate "**Active Resets.**" The hub acts as a permanent "anchor" in our yard where children can engage in self-directed, rhythmic play to soothe their nervous systems and find calm during the preschool day.

Community Need

The commencement of the **Inclusive Education Amendment Act in February 2026** mandates that children's services must be inclusive by design. Our centre has identified a vital need for a "quiet zone" as we support a growing number of children with diverse sensory profiles. High-stimulus outdoor environments can lead to sensory fatigue; this project fills that gap, providing a dedicated space that lowers stress and prevents sensory overload, aligning directly with the **SA Autism Strategy 2025–2029**.

Community Benefit

The Harmony Hub helps our children thrive by giving them the tools to recognize and manage their own sensory needs from a very young age. It creates a visible commitment to inclusion that benefits local families, playgroups, and transition-to-school programs. By utilizing **316L marine-grade stainless steel**, we are creating a 25-year legacy of wellbeing for the [Insert Suburb] community, ensuring a safe and harmonious environment for the next generation of South Australian children.

Outcomes

The project aims to achieve a measurable increase in **positive social play** and a reduction in sensory-related distress during transition times. It will provide a functional, all-abilities outdoor learning space that allows educators to meet **EYLF 2.0 Outcome 3: Children have a strong sense of wellbeing**. Ultimately, the hub will enhance the centre's reputation as a leader in neurodiversity-affirming early childhood practice.

Project Delivery

The project will be delivered in partnership with our Parent Committee and local educators. We will procure three "Zero-Surfacing" instruments (Explorer and Composer models) and install them on existing hard-stand or garden areas to maximize the grant budget. The project will include staff professional development on using "Acoustic Pedagogy" for regulation and will culminate in a "Harmony Day" launch for the local community.

Budget

Item	Quantity	Total (Ex. GST)
Explorer & Composer Instruments	3	\$12,050
In-ground Post Mounts	3	\$900
Freight (indicative to SA)	1	\$650
Installation & Site Prep	1	\$1,500
Total Project Cost		\$15,100
Funding Requested from CUSA		\$10,100
Kindergarten Contribution		\$5,000

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Pricing Note

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

Budget Justification

This request focuses on high-durability, therapeutic assets that provide the best value for Credit Union SA. By utilizing "**Zero-Surfacing**" technology, we avoid the \$10,000+ cost of rubber soft-fall, ensuring 100% of the grant is spent on the therapeutic instruments themselves. The centre's \$5,000 contribution reflects our commitment to innovation and ensuring we have the highest quality infrastructure for our students.

Sustainability

The instruments are crafted from marine-grade stainless steel with a **25-year structural warranty**. They are designed to withstand the South Australian climate with zero ongoing maintenance costs. This is a "one-off" capital investment that requires no electricity or repairs, making it a highly sustainable choice for a community-run kindergarten with limited recurring budgets.

Evaluation

Success will be evaluated through "Learning Stories" documenting children's engagement with the hub and staff surveys tracking playground "calmness" levels. We will also monitor feedback from visiting early childhood specialists (Occupational Therapists and Speech Pathologists) to measure the hub's effectiveness as a neurodiversity-affirming inclusion tool.

Application Considerations

Credit Union SA specifically looks for "**Thriving**" narratives. When completing the application, emphasize how this hub makes your centre a "centre of excellence" for sensory inclusion and how it helps the youngest South Australians (especially with the 2026 3-year-old rollout) feel safe and ready to learn.