Eligibility Assessment Criteria

* indicates a required field

1. Eligibility Assessment Critera

Program Overview

The program aims to empower Aboriginal families to build a developmentally supportive home learning environment and increase access and engagement in age-appropriate learning for Aboriginal children.

AFaT focuses on working directly with families and collaborating with early childhood education services to encourage age-appropriate learning and access for children aged 0-5 years in a quality, culturally rich early childhood education program. It grants funding to provide a structured 5-day early childhood education program for Aboriginal families.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the guidelines in full before applying to ensure they understand the program's eligibility criteria, funding components, assessment process, and reporting requirements.

The program has six core objectives:

1. 1.**Support Aboriginal families to create and strengthen developmentally rich home learning environments**

Provide culturally appropriate resources and learning intentions each session. This approach recognises families as a child's first and most important teachers, and aims to build confidence, connection, and continuity between home and early learning settings.

2. Promote literacy and numeracy-rich practices Deliver intentional learning activities and distribute culturally rich resources to all funded families per term, with the goal of increasing home-based literacy and numeracy practices, as measured through parent feedback and participation data.

3. Build families' confidence to support their children's learning and healthy development.

Deliver programming that introduces and builds on family knowledge of child development milestones and introduces early learning strategies to support growth.

4. Support successful transitions to school for Aboriginal children and families

Work with families, schools, and early childhood educators to co-design culturally safe transition plans, aiming for increased enrolment and positive transition experiences to available ECEC services, preschool or school.

5. Promote the value of early childhood education and increase participation in quality ECE programs

Engage families and communities through culturally led outreach to boost enrolment in early childhood programs, with a target of 600 hours minimum participation in the year before school.

6. Improve developmental outcomes across all five AEDC domains

Establish partnerships with health services to support access to regular health and developmental checks and use the results—alongside strength-based assessments and

family-supported learning plans—to monitor and track progress in children's physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and language development, aligned with AEDC indicators.

a) Please indicate which category your organisation belongs to: *
☐ Community-based organisation
☐ Not-for-profit organisation
☐ Aboriginal community-controlled organisation (ACCO)
☐ Other:

b) Is your organisation located in one of the following Statistical Area 3 (SA3) locations- Tamworth/Gunnedah or Lower Hunter ; *Refer to the ABS Maps (Australian Bureau of Statistics) to check the SA3 location of your service *
☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Other:

https://maps.abs.gov.au/

Eligible SA3 Locations for Round 2 include

- Tamworth/Gunnedah
- Lower Hunter

*If your not in one of the above SA3 locations, you are not eligible for this round of grants funding.

Please state which SA3 location/s you are applying to deliver the AFaT program? Include what communities you are planning to service within each SA3 *

When servicing rural settings funding may be allocated to consider distance between each community within the SA3 location

c) If you are an ACCO what community or communities are you applying to deliver in?

d) Will your proposed program activities be: Developed by a qualified Early Childhood Teacher (ECT)? *
☐ Yes
☐ No

Implemented by a certificate III or diploma-qualified early childhood educator, or another person with a relevant tertiary qualification? *
○ Yes
○ No

e) Is your organisation: *
☐ An early childhood service provider with a NSW Quality Ratings certificate of Meeting the National Quality Standard or above

☐ A registered Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation meeting child safety regulations
☐ Neither

f) Will your organisation ensure that all funded staff positions have clearly defined AFaT duties and that AFaT funding is used specifically for AFaT's core objectives and not duplicate for similar programs? *
○ Yes
○ No

g) You must attach evidence demonstrating your organisations not-for-profit status through one of the following:

- current Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) registration
- current state or territory registration as an incorporated association
- copy of constitution or memorandum and articles of association that demonstrate the not-for-profit character of the organisation

h) Please upload documentation demonstrating your organisation's not-for-profit status.
Attach a file:

Program Delivery

Program Delivery

The proposed program and activities must be:

- Structured but flexible to respond to the needs of families, children and the community
- Family-centred
- Strengths-based and culturally appropriate (recognising and building on the strengths of Aboriginal culture and ways of teaching young children)
- developed by a qualified early childhood education teacher, or other person with a relevant tertiary qualification
- linked with early childhood services in the community, including participation in 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school (at a minimum)
- linked to engaging and sustaining partnerships with community stakeholders to support the capacity of families to enhance early development outcomes for children birth to five years
- AFAT providers should co-design and collaborate with local Aboriginal services and communities on the design and implementation of the AFAT program. The program should respond to local community needs
- Supportive of Aboriginal children's development outcomes across all five domains (physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language)

Program reach

a) Please provide a detailed description of the proposed program.

b) Attach any relevant documentation.
Attach a file:

a) How many Aboriginal families do you expect to participant in the program per year?

d) How many Aboriginal children do you expect to participant in the program per year?

e) Outline the strategies that will be used to engage Aboriginal families in the program.

Program requirements

f) Do you agree to participate in the monitoring of developmental progress against the five domains in the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) through the department's acquittal process?
☐ Yes, I agree
☐ No, I do not agree

Program staff

g) Will your organisation employ a minimum of two staff members to deliver AFaT program activities, including at least one Aboriginal-identified staff member?
☐ Yes
☐ No

h) Please provide the details of each staff member who will be employed under the AFaT program, including their full name, qualification and role.

i) Please outline the number of hours per day each staff member will be engaged in direct program delivery, and how these hours will be structured (e.g. sessions, groups, home visits).

j) Please outline how your proposed activities during these hours will meet the program's core objectives, and how you will measure progress (e.g. literacy, numeracy, transition-to-school, cultural learning).

Core Objective 1 Support Aboriginal families to strengthen and grow developmentally supportive home learning environments

Core Objective 2 Promote literacy and numeracy practices

Core Objective 3 Build families confidence to support their childrens learning and healthy development

Core Objective 4 Support successful transitions to school for Aboriginal children and families

Core Objective 5 Promote the value of early childhood education and increase participation in quality ECE programs

Core Objective 6 Improve developmental outcomes across all five AEDC domains

Attach any additional files to provide additional information regarding program delivery
Attach a file:

This is only optional

Organisation details

Organisation details

a) Organisation Name
Organisation Name

b) Organisation ABN

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register
ABN
Entity Name

ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

c) Organisation Primary Address
Address

d) Organisation Primary Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

a) Organisation Primary Email

Must be an email address.

f) Contact Name
Title First Name Last Name

g) Contact Position

h) Contact Primary Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

i) Contact Primary Email

Must be an email address.

j) Are you an approved early childhood education service provider?
☐ Yes
☐ No

k) What is your NSW Quality Ratings against the National Quality Standard?

l) Do you give permission for a check to be conducted?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

Approved Provider Details

m) Approved Provider ID

n) Approved Provider Name

o) Approved Provider ABN

The ABN provided will be used to look up the following information. Click Lookup above to check that you have entered the ABN correctly.

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	
Entity Name	
ABN Status	
Entity Type	
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	
DGR Endorsed	
ATO Charity Type	More information
ACNC Registration	
Tax Concessions	
Main Business Location	

Must be an ABN.

p) Approved Provider Primary Address

Address

q) Approved Provider Primary Email

Must be an email address.

r) Contact Position

s) Alternative Contact Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.
Optional

a) Alternative Contact Email

Must be an email address.
Optional

Community Consultation

Aboriginal community consultation

a) Does your organisation or business have support from the local Aboriginal community to deliver the program?

☐ Yes
☐ No

b) How is this support demonstrated?

Attach a file:

This may include a letter from the local AECG, the Local Aboriginal Land Council or other Aboriginal organisation.

c) How will Aboriginal families from the community be involved in the design and delivery of the program?

Links with early childhood education services

The program must facilitate change to engagement within early childhood education services and Aboriginal children and their families. Providing Cultural safe pathways in early childhood services with community links, including participation in 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school (at a minimum).

Early childhood education services includes community preschools and long day care centres.

d) How will the program facilitate links with early childhood services in the community?

e) Please detail any collaboration with early childhood services in the community in designing the program.

Partnerships with other community stakeholders

The program must engage and sustain partnerships with community stakeholders to support the capacity of families to enhance early development outcomes for Aboriginal children 0-5 years.

This may include establishing a community advisory board to guide the program.

f) Describe partnerships with community stakeholders that the program will draw on to support the capacity of families to enhance early development outcomes for Aboriginal children 0-5 years.

Budget

Budget Request

a) Budget Table Grant Amount Requested

- Please complete the table below to outline the funding amount you are requesting under each component. Ensure that the amounts align with your delivery plan and program objectives.
- Program Delivery: Calculate staff hours and include administration, lesson planning, reporting, and travel.
- Program Running Costs: Include operational expenses (max. $20,000 annually per community).
- Community Engagement: Include culturally appropriate engagement and outreach (max. $5,000 annually per community).
- **Multiple Locations**

  Grants of up to $25 000 are available. Grants can be used to cover staff costs, other direct program costs, including for community engagement activities and program administration, reporting, acquittals, travel costs and required participation in department professional development activities. Table 1 shows costs that will be covered by the program per location.

  If delivering in more than one priority location, organisations can apply for an extra $15,000 per additional location. Table 2 shows grants if a program is provided in multiple locations.

b) If you are applying to deliver in more than one community, please attach a budget table that provides a clear breakdown of program delivery for each community.

Attach a file:

NOTE:

Please note that not all proposed communities may be approved for funding. In addition, the *Running Costs and Community Engagement* amount does not remain fixed at $25,000 per community; instead, it increases on a sliding scale relative to the number of delivery locations.

If you have additional delivery locations, add additional columns for breakdown.

Component

Description

Example Coverage

Delivery location 1

Delivery location 2 (if applying for multiple locations)

Program Delivery

Direct delivery of program hours by qualified staff. Includes administration, lesson planning, resource development, child assessment, reporting, acquittals, and travel.

Early Childhood Teacher ($50.59/hr), Cert III Educator ($30/hr), teaching hours, admin tasks, travel.

$_____

$_____

Program Running Costs

Essential operational expenses to support program delivery.

Materials/resources, venue hire, transport, food for playgroups/workshops, other delivery costs. (Max. $20,000 sliding scale of $10,000 per subsequent community)

$_____

$_____

Community Engagement

Activities that support local context, cultural safety, and outreach.

Elders involvement, Aboriginal liaison, family engagement sessions, health service partnerships. (Max. $5,000 annually per community and $5,000 per subsequent community)

$_____

$_____

Maximum grant value if delivering in more than one location*

Number of locations

Maximum grant

1

$25,000.00

2

$40,000.00

3

$55,000.00

4

$70,000.00

5

$85,000.00

Delivery Plan

a) Please provide a delivery plan that outlines the funding amount requested in your application, including:

- Key milestones (e.g., recruitment, program launch, term delivery, reviews, final reporting)
- Key dates for each milestone
- Staff commencement details (Early Childhood Teacher and Educator)
- Program launch date
- Review and evaluation checkpoints
- Associated budget allocations linked to each milestone (e.g., salaries, running costs, community engagement, administration).

Applicants are encouraged to present this information in a table format showing activities, timelines, responsible staff, and budget allocations.
Attach a file:

Applicant Declaration

* indicates a required field

Note: providing false or misleading information may result in the withdrawal of funding.

The person completing this declaration must be authorised to submit this application on behalf of the Approved Provider.

The information in this application, including all documents attached to or forming part of this application, is to the best of my knowledge true and correct *
○ Yes
Tick the box to confirm the statement

Where I am giving this undertaking and making this declaration as the applicant's delegate, I am duly authorised by the applicant to do so *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I confirm that I have read and agree to comply with the guidelines and spending rules located on the Aboriginal Families as Teachers web page *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I agree to comply with the Terms and Conditions on the Early Childhood Education Contract Management System *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I confirm the service will keep evidence of expenditure as part of the acquittal process *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I confirm that I am authorised to submit the application form on behalf of the service *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I confirm that the initiative/s outlined in this application have not been funded by the Department through another Early Childhood Education Directorate program *

○ Yes

Tick the box to confirm the statement

I am the applicant and authorised to submit this application on behalf of the Approved Provider *

Title | First Name | Last Name

Date *

Must be a date.

Phone Number *

Must be an Australian phone number.