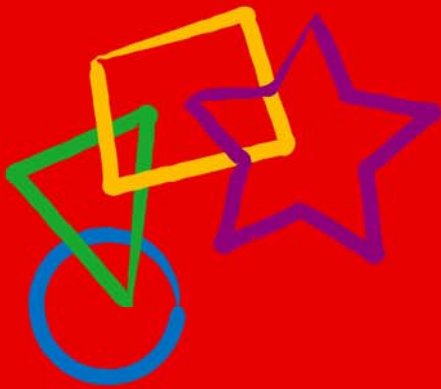


Office for Early Childhood Education and Care

# Kindergarten Program Administration

## Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme

Childcare Queensland 2010 National Long Day Care  
Conference, 31 July 2010



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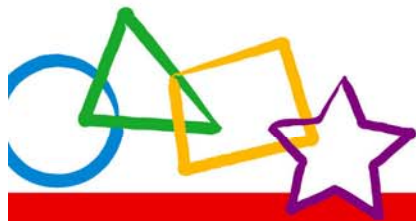
# Early Childhood Education and Care in Queensland

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- In 2009, there were approximately 57,000 4-year-olds in Queensland
- Of these, approximately 51% were enrolled in long day care
- 25% were enrolled in C&K kindergartens, and 25% were not using any centre-based early childhood education and care services
- Approximately 32% were enrolled in a teacher-led kindergarten program

## Long Day Care

- Since 2007, the long day care sector in Queensland has experienced growth of around 6.8%
- The number of licensed long day care services increasing from 1,366 to 1,459



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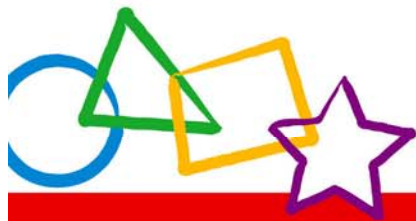
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# Take up of Long Day Care

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- In 2009, approximately 117,000 children were enrolled in long day care in Queensland
- The proportion of children by age group is as follows:

Age of child	Less than 1 year old	1 year old	2 years old	3 years old	4 years old	5 years old	6 to 12 years old	Total
Percent	4.8%	14.0%	21.1%	25.5%	24.3%	4.7%	5.6%	<b>100.0%</b>



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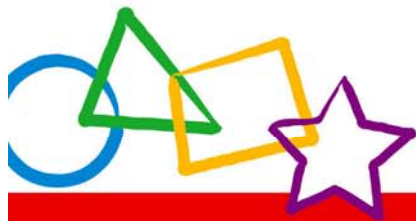
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# Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- Under the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme a new subsidy is available to approved kindergarten program providers, and is designed to assist centres to offset the cost of implementing and operating a kindergarten program
- The key feature of the new scheme is that approved kindergarten program providers will receive a standard subsidy per eligible child enrolled
- From July 2010, the standard subsidy available to long day care centres for each child participating in a kindergarten program is \$1239 per year
- From July 2010 , the standard subsidy available to existing kindergarten services for each child participating in a kindergarten program is \$2168.25 per year
- The main reason for the difference between the two rates is that families with children attending long day care services are eligible for Commonwealth childcare benefits and rebates that can reduce the out-of-pocket fees for parents



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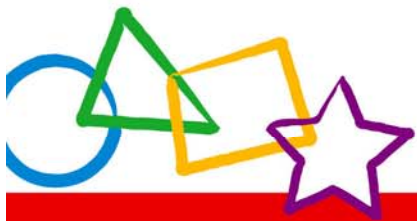
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# Approval process

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- There is a range of criteria that approval as a kindergarten program provider is assessed against – these are:
  - holds a current Queensland licence for a centre based child care service, under the Queensland ***Child Care Act 2002***
  - holds an appropriate public liability insurance of at least \$10 million
  - offers a learning program that:
    - is delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher
    - is provided to children who are 4 years old by 30 June in the year they participate in an approved kindergarten program
    - is delivered for at least 15 hours per week and 40 weeks per year
    - meets the requirements of the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline
    - is aligned with the principles of the national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)
  - the organisation demonstrates sound financial status



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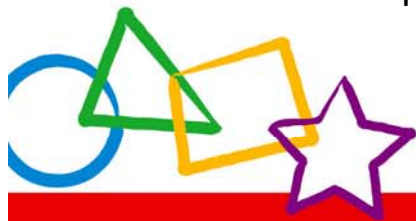
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# Kindergarten Funding Scheme funding for LDC

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- Subsidies are indexed annually each July
- In addition to the standard subsidy, further subsidies are available for services in remote and low socio-economic areas, including:
  - 50% of the standard subsidy rate for services in remote and very remote locations as determined by the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) developed by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care – this subsidy is to support services to attract and retain qualified teachers
  - 25% of the standard subsidy rate for services operating in locations within the bottom 20% of Statistical Local Areas (SLA) as identified using the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – this subsidy is to offset fees and reduce out of pocket expenses for parents
  - A \$375 per child per annum Health Care Card subsidy is provided to services not in receipt of the low socio-economic subsidy for each child whose parent/carer/guardian holds a Commonwealth Health Care Card
  - The Health Care Card is subsidy provided directly to services to offset fees and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for parents



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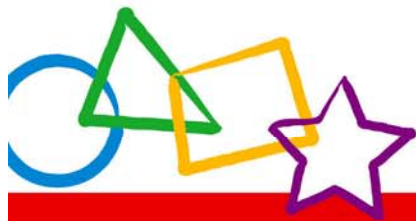
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# 2010 Payment Schedule

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- Current guidelines state that payments will be quarterly
- Services in the 2010 Kindergarten Pilot Program have received one payment up until the end of June 2010
- To align payments with reporting, further payments will be made in July 2010 and January 2011
- In July 2010, the payment will be made based on projected enrolments for July to December 2010
- The January 2011 payment will be based on projected enrolments for January 2011 until June 2011
- This payment will include adjustments between estimated and actual enrolments for kindergarten programs in 2010



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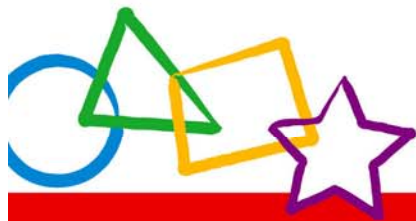
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# Kindergarten Funding Calculator

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- Services can generate an estimate of the funding they may receive under the new kindergarten funding scheme using the Kindergarten Funding Calculator at <http://education.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/kindergarten/calculator.html>
- To determine if your service is eligible for a remote or low socio-economic subsidy, the calculator takes into account the ARIA and SEIFA codes of each kindergarten program provider
- Please note the amounts generated are an estimate only and are not a guarantee of funding
- The amounts generated reflect current subsidy levels and these subsidy levels are indexed annually in July



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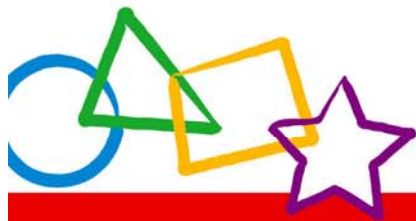
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# Performance Reporting 2010

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- The current guidelines prescribe quarterly data collections
- This is being reduced to two data collections via an online survey tool in July and December
- These two data collections are in addition to the annual Early Childhood Education and Care Services Census (the Census) conducted in August
- Both collections require aggregate enrolment data, the total numbers of children enrolled, and confirmation of continued eligibility to receive kindergarten funding
- The July collection required the current enrolment numbers and estimated enrolments for the next six months
- The December 2010 collection requires the actual enrolment numbers for 2010 and estimated enrolments for January 2011 to June 2011
- All other data requirements required under the funding service agreements in 2010 will be collected through the Census in August



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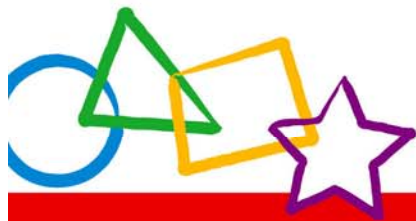
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# Performance Reporting 2011

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- In 2011, subject to legislative amendment, the Office will move from collecting aggregate data (data about overall numbers of children) to collecting Unit Record Level (URL) data (data about individual children) for reporting purposes in the Census, and in at least one of the other collections
- The use of URL data will enable the Office to;
  - more accurately calculate the subsidy entitlements,
  - Accurately calculate any adjustments, and
  - report on participation of Queensland children.
- In 2011, the Office anticipates that data collection will occur twice for funding purposes (in addition to the August Census)



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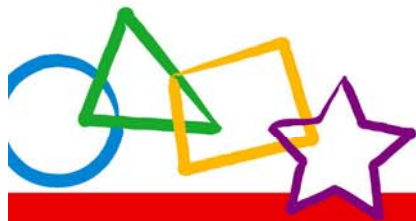
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# Number of Approved Kindergarten Programs in Long Day Care

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- In December 2009, 141 long day care services were selected to participate in the 2010 Kindergarten Pilot Program
- Of these 141 services, 138 long day care centres are approved kindergarten program providers
- This means up to 3900 children are now participating in an approved kindergarten program in a long day care centre



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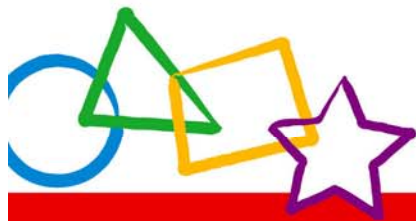
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# Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- A Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline is being developed by the Queensland Studies Authority
- Guideline has been formally trialled in 27 services across Queensland
- Trial sites are representative of the range of early childhood education and care settings across the state (long day care, community kindergarten, Bound for Success pre-Prep and kindergarten in non-state schools)
- Guideline builds on the Early Years Learning Framework (for children aged birth to 5) and provides information about how to plan and implement a kindergarten program
- The Guideline articulates learning expectations of children in kindergarten to ensure a level of consistency across approved kindergarten programs
- The importance of children learning through play is emphasised as is the importance of quality interactions between adults and children
- Guideline reinforces the need for high expectations of all children as capable learners



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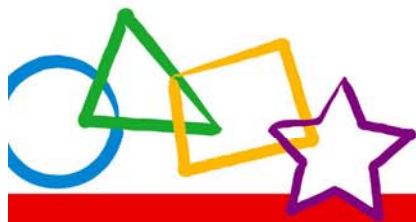
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# Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- The Guideline will include:
  - a tool for monitoring children’s progress
  - a continuum of learning and development to assist teachers in making judgements about children’s learning progress and to inform further planning for learning
  - content for a school transition statement that summarises children’s learning during kindergarten that is provided to parents at the end of kindergarten to inform enrolment orientation meetings with Prep teachers and school staff
  - the Guideline will be implemented from 2011, supported by online professional support materials for educators
  - the trial concluded on 30 June 2010 and the Guideline will be submitted for approval by the Governing Body of the Queensland Studies Authority shortly
  - once the Guideline is approved, early childhood education and care services may submit other curriculum frameworks to the Queensland Studies Authority for accreditation as an equivalent curriculum framework



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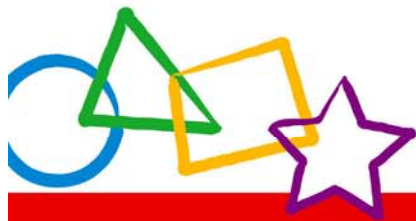
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# Support for Service Providers - Queensland Kindergarten Program Project Room

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- Information about Frequently Asked Questions are available on the Office website:  
<http://education.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/kindergarten/faq.html>
- Information covered includes:
  - Applying for funding
  - General funding information
  - Information for parents
  - Kindergarten program delivery
  - Education programs
  - Existing community kindergartens
  - Promotion material
  - Teacher qualifications



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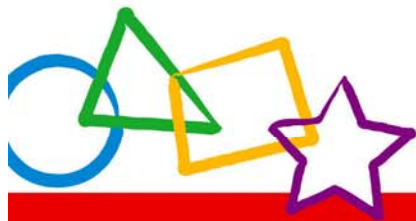
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# Support for Service Providers - Queensland Kindergarten Program Project Room

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- The Office has established an interactive online forum for kindergarten program providers – a Project Room on the Department of Education and Training (DET) Learning Place website
- The purpose of the Project Room is to:
  - provide information and advice to support the delivery of kindergarten programs
  - provide support for the implementation of the Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guideline
  - build professional networks and information sharing



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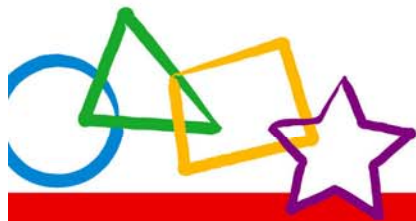
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# Queensland Kindergarten Program Project Room

Office for **Early Childhood Education and Care**

- More specifically, the Project Room includes:
  - discussion forums for raising questions about the operation and management of the kindergarten program
  - a forum to share experiences with other kindergarten program providers
  - information to guide data and reporting processes
  - information about implementation of the kindergarten Guideline
  - space to ask questions and discuss approaches
- Only registered users can access the Project Room - funded services are invited to nominate up to three staff, typically the kindergarten teacher, Director and Licensee to register for access to the Project Room
  - Project Room participants require a username and password to access the online space



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# Kindergarten Funding Scheme 2010 - Office for Early Childhood Education and Care

## Round 2

- On 9 June, the second funding round of the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme for long day care centres was announced (closed on 29 June)
- The Office received 243 applications, these are being assessed against all eligibility criteria
- There are a number of changes in the eligibility assessment criteria for Round 2:
  - Teacher eligibility was broadened to include fully registered primary school teachers studying towards an early childhood qualification
  - Financial threshold criteria were outlined in the *Round 2 Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme Information Paper* to ensure applicants demonstrated a sound financial status of the organisation through meeting all of the following;
    - a net profit over each reporting period
    - current assets greater than current liabilities
    - total assets greater than total liabilities; and
    - cash at bank is positive.
- A Ministerial announcement of the successful candidates and notification to all applications is anticipated by the end of August 2010
- The negotiating of Service Agreements should commence by the end of August 2010

