

2. Extended hours of operation

Flexible Initiatives Trial – Stream 1A scenarios

Community need

Sunshine Valley Early Learning Centre (ELC) is close to a hospital. Many of the service's existing families have requested more adaptable hours of education and care to support their varying schedules.



The proposal

The Sunshine Valley team plans to use a Flexible Initiatives Trial grant to expand their operating hours and offer families tailored care sessions for their children.

The plan

The plan involves extending the opening hours of the service. Grant funding will be sought to hire staff to cover the additional operating hours. Funds will also be used to train staff to ensure that they can integrate seamlessly and effectively into the extended hours rostering system and maintain consistent service quality.

The budget

Item	Trial cost *GST excl
Staff 2 x full-time diploma educators for 3 hours per day (ongoing cost)	\$76,440
Admin 0.25 x full-time equivalent of a director as backfill (temporary)	\$20,280
Fee subsidy 3 hours per day at 50% for 3 days (based on daily rate of \$140/day), assuming 5% of total children utilising the extended hours (one-off cost)	\$6,128
Training Upskilling of staff on existing rostering software – 0.5 of a full-time director as backfill for 1 week (temporary cost)	\$780
Rent Increase in rent of \$119 per week (ongoing cost)	\$6,188
Total cost (excluding GST)	\$109,816

Grant application

The Sunshine Valley team submits a grant application with the above information. The application is assessed and is successful. They sign a funding agreement.

Implementation

With a focus on building their team of ECEC educators and administrators, Sunshine Valley ELC attracts new staff driven by a commitment to quality education and care and supporting diverse family needs.

To ensure families are aware of the new flexible options, they promote their extended hours through school newsletters, social media and word of mouth, including clear information about the tailored sessions and the benefits they offer.

They use ongoing data collection to record feedback, understand patterns, and demonstrate outcomes. Data-driven insights result in continuous evolution, helping to steer program enhancements and inform future requests for funding.

Outcomes

Sunshine Valley ELC's initiative addresses the community's needs, creating a blueprint for adaptable education and care. With ongoing review and evaluation, they ensure evolving family needs are met.



Learn more

Scan the QR code to find out all about the Flexible Initiatives Trial