



Education

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTORATE

Start Strong Pathways  
Information Session





## WHY DO WE NEED START STRONG PATHWAYS?

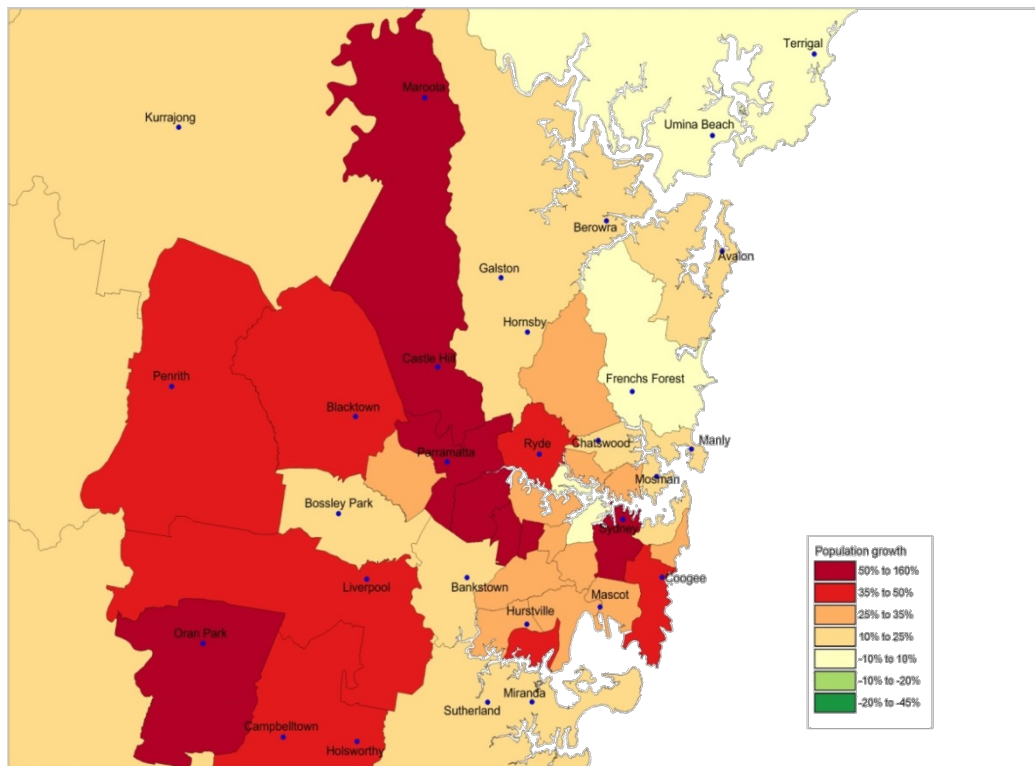
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Despite increases in the proportion of children accessing 600 hours of early childhood education in the year before school, there are still some groups missing out. Starting engagement with these vulnerable groups earlier gives us the best chance of increasing their 600 hour enrolments



# INCREASING DEMAND THROUGH POPULATION GROWTH

4 YEAR OLD POPULATION GROWTH IN GREATER SYDNEY FROM 2011-2031



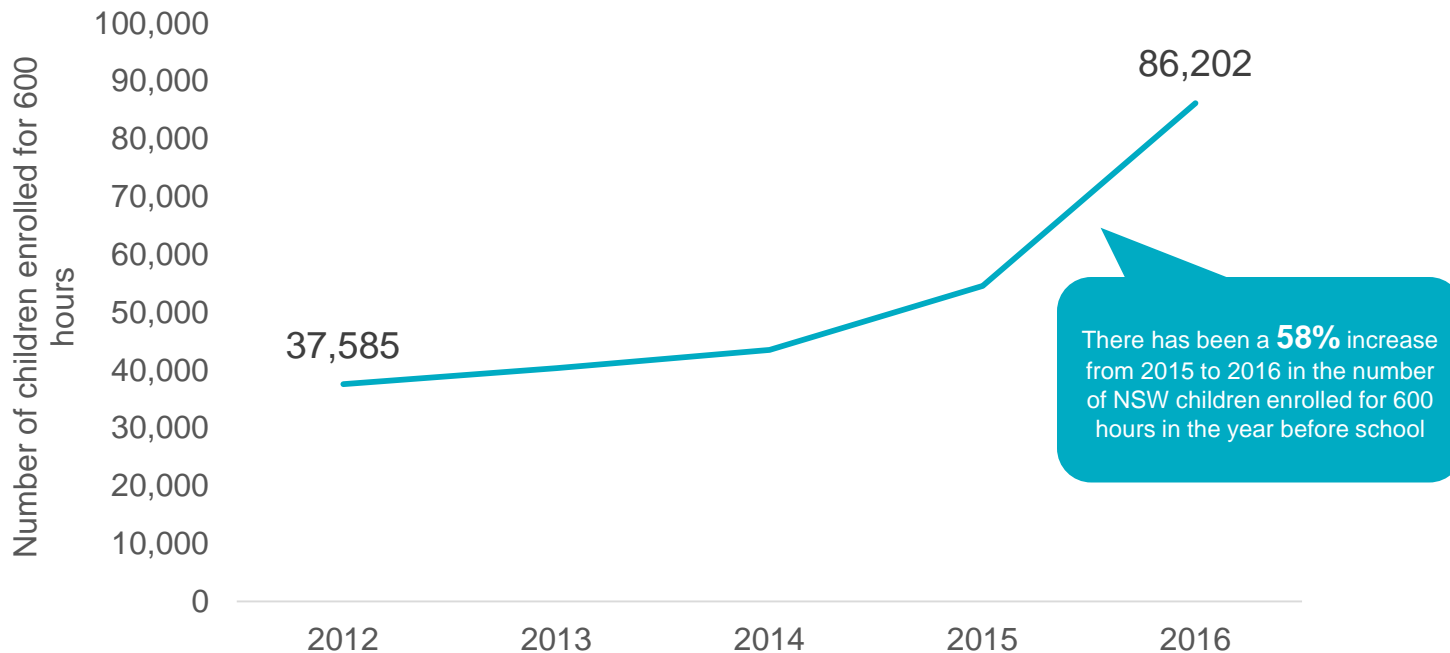
Current population of 0-5 years in NSW is 610,000, growing to 687,000 by 2031.

Growth is concentrated in metropolitan areas, with slight declines on average in regional and remote areas.

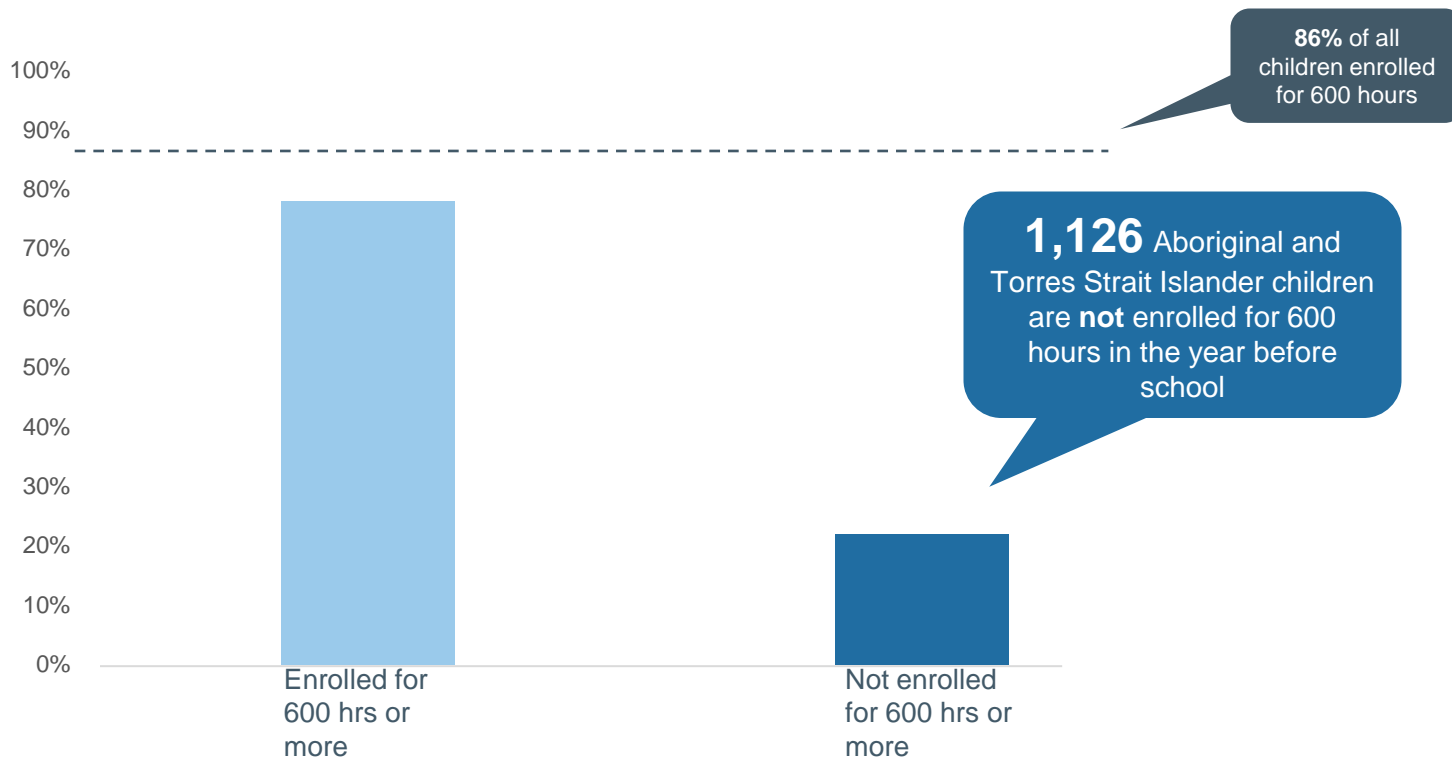
Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment 2014 population, household and implied dwelling projections.

## NSW HAS SEEN SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS IN OVERALL 600 HOUR ENROLMENTS, HOWEVER, CHILDREN ARE STILL MISSING OUT

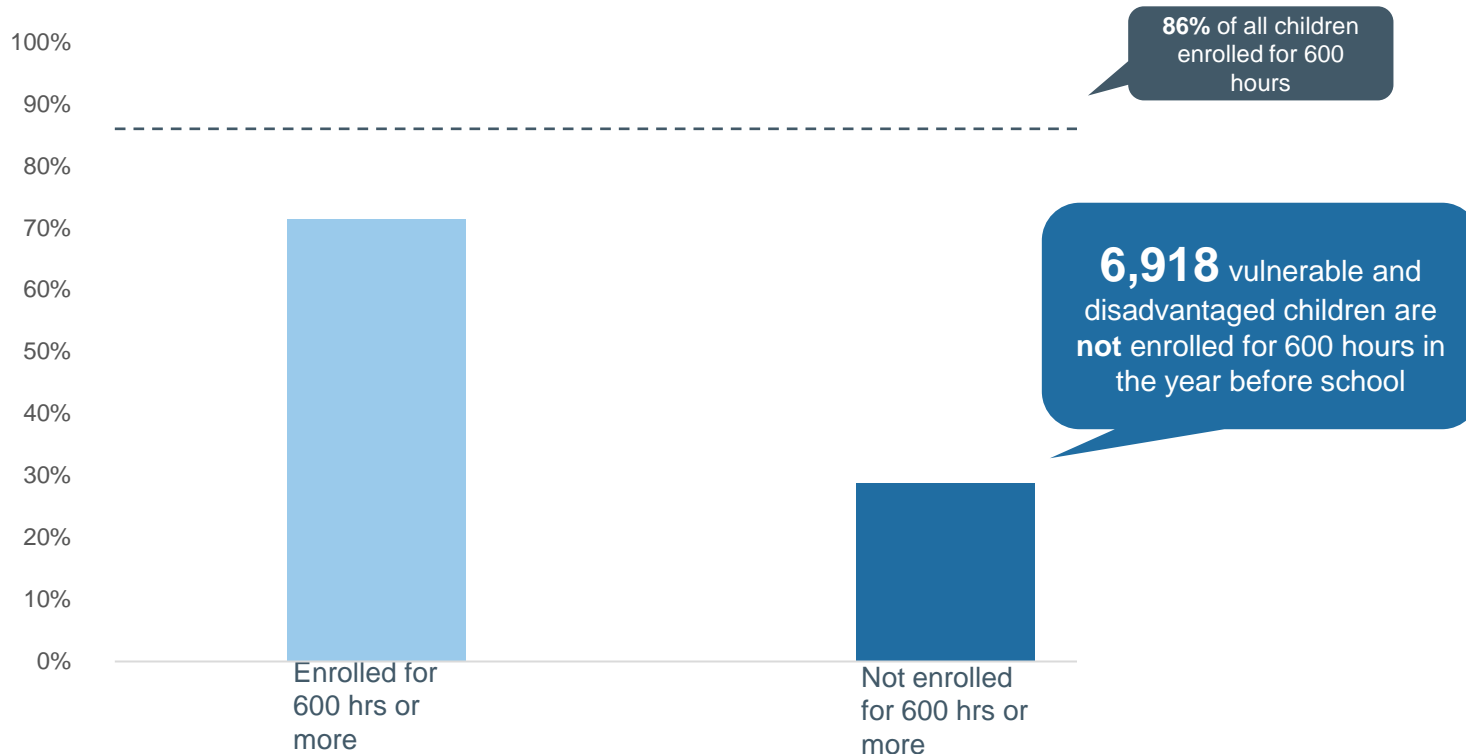
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## ABORIGINAL CHILDREN ARE STILL MORE LIKELY TO MISS OUT ON 600 HOURS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN THE YEAR BEFORE SCHOOL



## VULNERABLE AND DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN ARE ALSO LESS LIKELY TO BE ENROLLED FOR 600 HOURS IN THE YEAR BEFORE SCHOOL



## CHILDREN FROM CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO MISS OUT

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“Infants from Language Other Than English (LOTE) families were less likely to attend formal care arrangements, informal non-relative care, and combined informal and formal care. LOTE families were more likely to use informal care from relatives for their infants than English-only speaking families.”

Source: Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (2009), The Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, Social Policy Research Paper No. 40

“Children from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds, aged 3-5 years, in preschool programs are likely to be underrepresented, as their representation in the community of 23.7% (2011), exceeds their representation in a preschool program, the YBFS, at 20.2% (2014).”

Source: Productivity Commission (2017) Review of Government Services (RoGS) – Section 3: Early childhood education and care



## WHAT IS START STRONG PATHWAYS?

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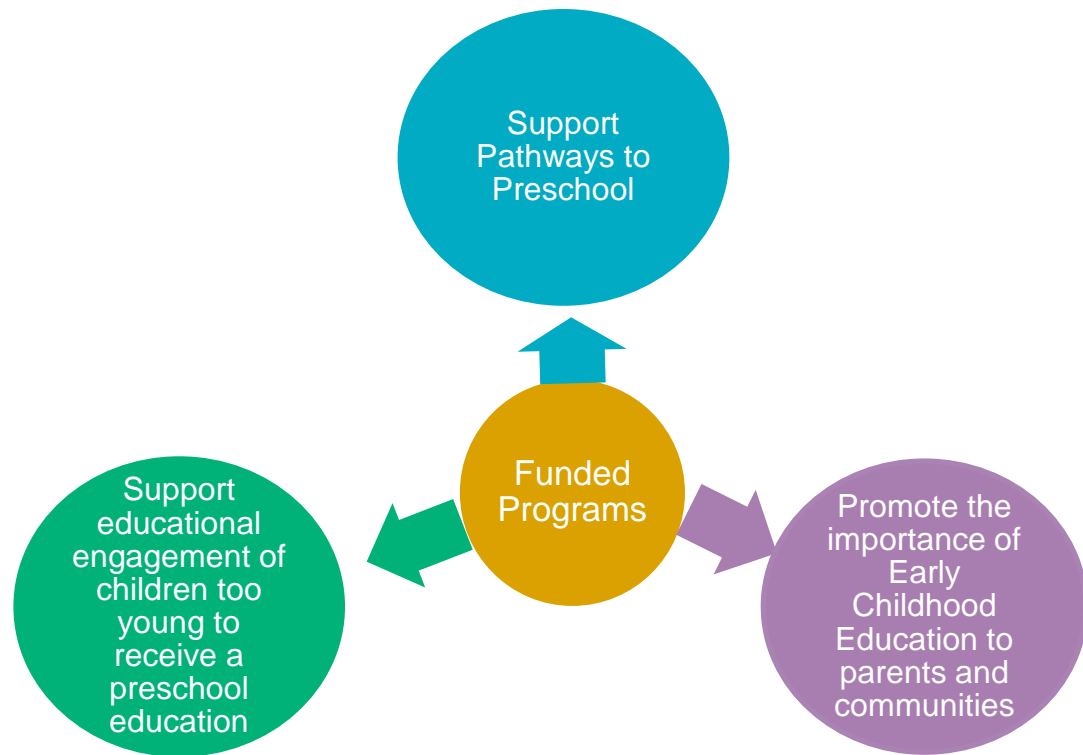
A new program to help provide educational supports for very young children, strengthen the engagement of children within these services, and help promote the importance of early childhood education to parents.







# START STRONG PATHWAYS OBJECTIVES



# MEETING THE OBJECTIVES

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**Innovative**

No prescribed  
approach

**Localised**

Suited to YOUR  
community's needs

**Targeted**

Supports the children  
that need it most

**Reviewable**

Continuous  
Improvement to meet  
our objectives



## ELIGIBILITY

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To be eligible to apply for Start Strong pathways, services must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a not-for-profit community based service
- engage a certificate III or diploma qualified early childhood educator, early childhood education teacher, or other person with a relevant tertiary qualification to run or design the service activities
- have established links with early childhood education providers
- comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Early Childhood Education Grants Program





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- Registered with ACNC
- Local Government Services



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- **Relevant to the objectives of Start Strong Pathways and the service activity**



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- **Support pathways to preschool**

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- **comply with the Terms and Conditions of the Early Childhood Education Grants Program**

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- **Standard Terms and Conditions across all funding programs for 2017/18**



## PRIORITY OF FUNDING

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1. services transitioning to Start Strong Pathways from the Long Day Care, Occasional Care, Vacation Care or Early Childhood Projects funding programs as part of the Early Childhood Education Grants Program
2. services engaging with vulnerable community groups with limited access to early childhood education in the area which they service.

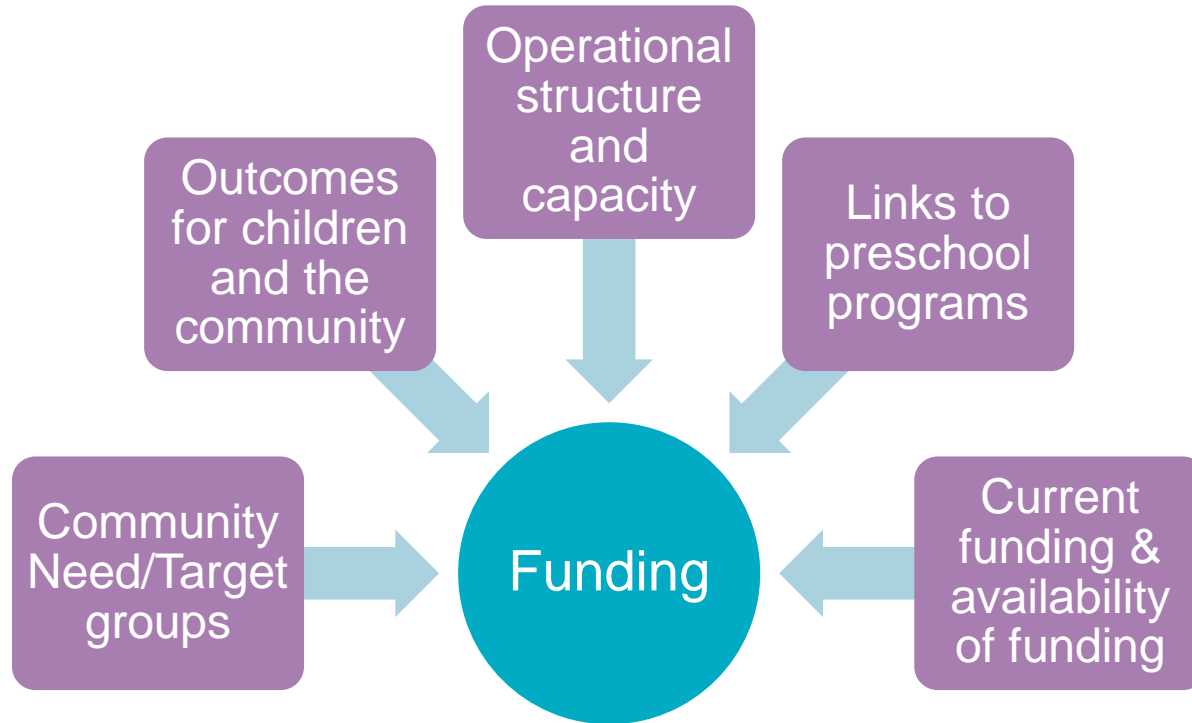
Pathways is providing a funding source for eligible 'Legacy' Programs







# DETERMINATION OF FUNDING





# HOW MUCH TO APPLY FOR?

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## Consider

- What funding do you need?
- What other sources of funding are available to you?
- Can you show you will use the money effectively?

## Funding Amounts

Depends on your community, your planned activities and the total funding pool.

## Successful Applications

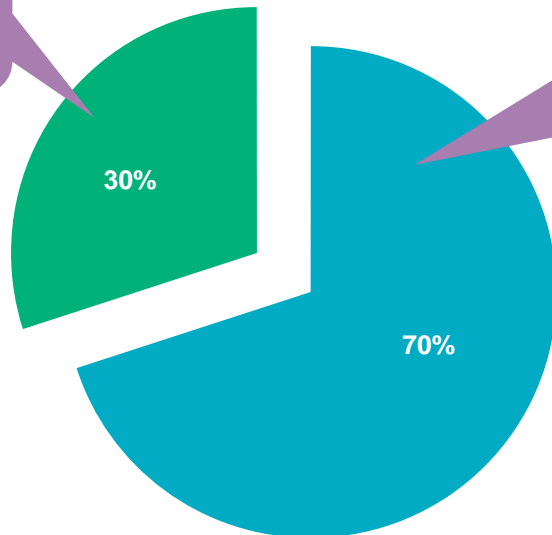
- Adjustments may be made to the funding allocation sought



# SPENDING RULES

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- Service discretion – other administration costs



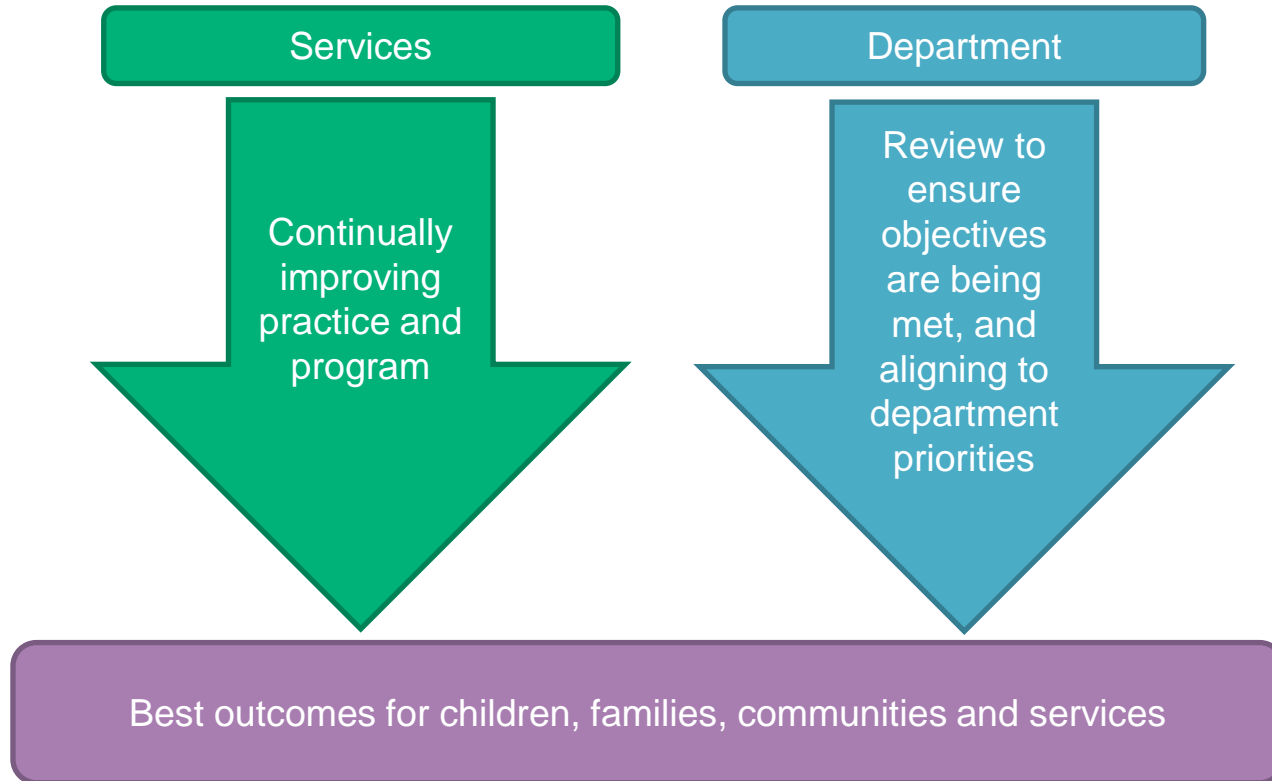
- Purchasing educational resources
- Educator employment
- venue costs





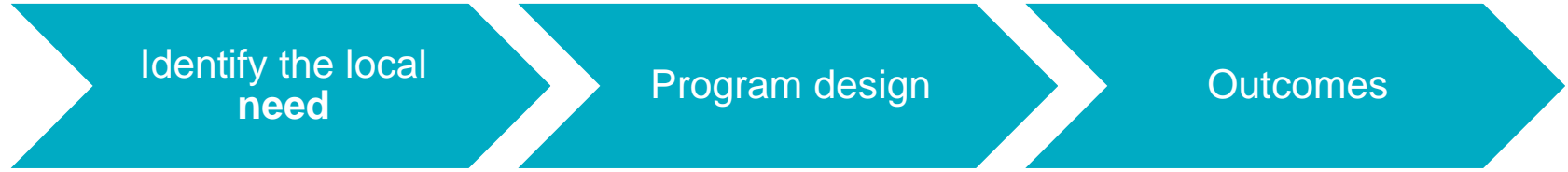
# REVIEW AND EVALUATION

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# CONSIDERING YOUR APPLICATION



- What data do you have on the community?
- What is the existing service framework?
- What is the capacity of the existing services, and are there gaps in delivery?

- How will service gaps be addressed?
- What are the most effective solutions, and how will you implement them?
- What partnerships/links to other services do you have to implement the solutions?

- What are the outputs of the service?
- What are the outcomes for children, parents and the community?
- How do you measure success?



## WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY?

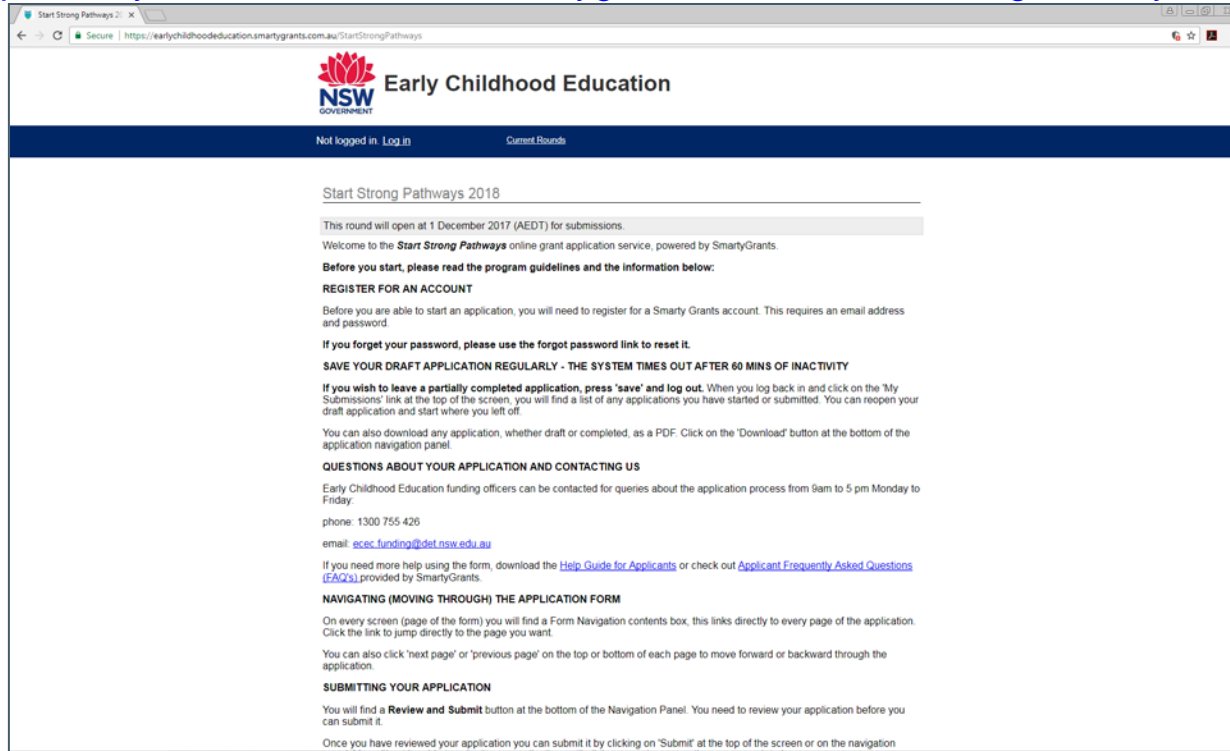
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- Meet the eligibility criteria
- Program information
  - What you will deliver and how
- Evidence of **need** for your program
- Evidence of how you will meet the objectives
- Financial information
  - What funding you currently receive
  - What funding you are asking for
  - Expenditure plan



# APPLYING FOR START STRONG PATHWAYS

<https://earlychildhoodeducation.smartygrants.com.au/StartStrongPathways>



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Start Strong Pathways 2018' application page. The page header features the NSW Government logo and the text 'Early Childhood Education'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with 'Not logged in' and 'Log In' links, and 'Current Rounds' text. The main content area is titled 'Start Strong Pathways 2018' and contains the following information:

- A notice: 'This round will open at 1 December 2017 (AEDT) for submissions.'
- Welcome message: 'Welcome to the **Start Strong Pathways** online grant application service, powered by SmartyGrants.'
- Instruction: 'Before you start, please read the program guidelines and the information below.'
- Section: **REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT**
  - Text: 'Before you are able to start an application, you will need to register for a Smarty Grants account. This requires an email address and password.'
  - Text: 'If you forget your password, please use the forgot password link to reset it.'
  - Text: 'SAVE YOUR DRAFT APPLICATION REGULARLY - THE SYSTEM TIMES OUT AFTER 60 MINS OF INACTIVITY'
  - Text: 'If you wish to leave a partially completed application, press 'save' and log out. When you log back in and click on the 'My Submissions' link at the top of the screen, you will find a list of any applications you have started or submitted. You can reopen your draft application and start where you left off.'
  - Text: 'You can also download any application, whether draft or completed, as a PDF. Click on the 'Download' button at the bottom of the application navigation panel.'
- Section: **QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION AND CONTACTING US**
  - Text: 'Early Childhood Education funding officers can be contacted for queries about the application process from 9am to 5 pm Monday to Friday.'
  - Text: 'phone: 1300 755 426'
  - Text: 'email: [ecce\\_funding@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ecce_funding@det.nsw.edu.au)'
  - Text: 'If you need more help using the form, download the [Help Guide for Applicants](#) or check out [Applicant Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) provided by SmartyGrants.'
- Section: **NAVIGATING (MOVING THROUGH) THE APPLICATION FORM**
  - Text: 'On every screen (page of the form) you will find a Form Navigation contents box, this links directly to every page of the application. Click the link to jump directly to the page you want.'
  - Text: 'You can also click 'next page' or 'previous page' on the top or bottom of each page to move forward or backward through the application.'
- Section: **SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION**
  - Text: 'You will find a **Review and Submit** button at the bottom of the Navigation Panel. You need to review your application before you can submit it.'
  - Text: 'Once you have reviewed your application you can submit it by clicking on 'Submit' at the top of the screen or on the navigation'

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DIRECTORATE



Thank you