



Australian Government
Department of Education

Webinar – Small Scale Market Sounding

Building Early Education Fund

20 November 2025



Building Early Education Fund - Overview

- The Building Early Education Fund includes \$500 million in capital funding to build or expand not-for-profit ECEC services and is comprised of multiple streams:
 - Funding for ECEC to be located on schools through State and Territory Governments
 - Large-scale ECEC not-for-profit providers grants
 - Small-scale ECEC not-for-profit providers grants, including in-venue Family Day Care
 - Holistic 'Hub' services including ECEC through the Investment Dialogue for Australia's Children

Small scale market sounding

- Small scale market sounding is now open
- Market sounding is **not** a grant application
- Responses will inform the design for future grant rounds
- We are seeking input from small not-for-profit providers, local governments and First Nations led-providers
- We are interested in hearing about your capacity and interest to build or expand ECEC services in areas of need



Small scale market sounding

- **Centre Based Day Care (CBDC) services**
- We want to hear from CCS-approved not-for-profit providers and First Nations led providers that:
 - operate less than 10 CBDC services
 - have a strong quality and compliance track record
 - have interest and capacity to build or expand and deliver at least one CBDC service in areas of need
 - own or have access to land or the capacity to acquire land
- Responses for CBDC can be submitted at:

<https://edu.smartygrants.com.au/SmallScaleMarketSounding-CBDC>



Small scale market sounding

- **In-venue Family Day Care (FDC)**
- Some areas of high need do not have the demand for a CBDC service. We are exploring in-venue FDC as a solution
- We want to hear from not-for-profit providers and local governments that have interest and capacity to modify an existing building to deliver in-venue FDC
- Responses for in-venue FDC can be submitted at:

<https://edu.smartygrants.com.au/SmallScaleMarketSounding-InVenueFDC>



Small scale market sounding

- We are seeking information on:
 - Your experience building or expanding ECEC infrastructure, or modifying existing buildings to deliver in-venue FDC
 - Locations you are interested in expanding into
 - The estimated costs, timeframes and number of places your proposed site would deliver
 - Whether you have community and council support
 - Whether you have available workforce

Small scale market sounding

- Market sounding will close **5pm AEDT 18 December 2025**
- There are **separate forms** for CBDC and in-venue FDC
- Information about future grant rounds will be provided on our website
- Questions from attendees and the Department's answers will be made available at:
<https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/about/building-early-education-fund/market-sounding-building-early-education-fund>

Q&A

