

Early Childhood Teacher Supplement 2017

Question and Answers

The Early Childhood Teacher Supplement (ECTS) is additional funding paid to kindergarten service providers to help offset the cost of employing more experienced teachers in funded kindergarten programs.

The ECTS is paid as a one off payment in addition to per capita funding.

Which services are eligible to apply for the ECTS?

The ECTS is available to all services that receive standard or rural per capita funding and employ eligible teachers. It is not available for services operated by non-government schools.

Which teachers are eligible?

The teacher for whom the ECTS is being claimed must:

- be a permanent, ongoing employee or relief teacher employed for three months or more to deliver a funded kindergarten program for children in the year before school
 - be a VIT registered early childhood teacher
 - have successfully completed the early childhood teacher validation process¹ to progress to a Level 2 or Level 3 teacher OR have been deemed to be equivalent to a Level 2 teacher as part of the translation from the MECA 2005 to the new classification structure under the VECTAA 2009 or LGECEEA 2009 and there was no requirement to undertake a validation process to be recognised at that level
- AND

- be paid as a Level 2.3, 2.4 or 2.5 teacher under the VECTEA 2016 or EEEA 2016 (or equivalent)² for the Level 2 ECTS or
- be paid as a Level 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 or 3.5 teacher under the VECTEA 2016 or EEEA 2016 (or equivalent)² for the Level 3 ECTS.

The ECTS is **not** available for teachers:

- employed at the service for less than three months
- employed to cover only lunch breaks.

How is the ECTS calculated?

The ECTS is paid as a rate per child that is determined by the salary level of the teacher and the funding category of the service (standard, rural or small rural). Per child rates are listed in the table below:

Early Childhood Teacher Supplement	January – December 2017 Rates
Level 2	
Standard rate	\$230 per enrolment
Rural rate – 15 or more enrolments	\$285 per enrolment
Rural services 9 or fewer enrolments	\$3,753 per service
Rural services 10 - 14 enrolments	\$5,838 per service
Level 3	
Standard rate	\$576 per enrolment
Rural rate – 15 or more enrolments	\$714 per enrolment
Rural services 9 or fewer enrolments	\$9,396 per service
Rural services 10 - 14 enrolments	\$14,616 per service

¹ In accordance with the MECA 2005, VECTAA 2009 or LGECEEA 2009

² An Agreement with an equivalent salary structure and validation process to the VECTEA and EEEA

The ECTS is calculated as follows:

The number of confirmed per capita enrolments ³ plus ESK funded enrolments taught by the eligible teacher(s) in a funded kindergarten group.	
	x
The applicable annual rate per child	
	x
The proportion of contact hours delivered by the eligible teacher(s) (capped at 15 hours per group)	
	x
The proportion of kindergarten terms delivered by the eligible teacher(s) (a pro-rata amount is calculated if the teacher delivered the program for three terms or fewer during the year)	
	= total ECTS per group

The maximum ECTS grant per group is equivalent to one teacher delivering the program across the whole year. This means **the ECTS amount is capped at 15 hours for four terms for a group** irrespective of the number of teachers.

If an eligible teacher works less than four terms or delivers fewer than 15 hours, then the grant payment is proportionally reduced.

Does the calculation change if there are two or more eligible teachers per group?

Where there is more than one eligible teacher delivering the kindergarten program to a group, the grant amount is calculated using the proportion of hours and terms delivered by each eligible teacher (up to the cap of 15 hours for 4 terms for the group).

The proportion of the grant to be paid at Level 3 is calculated first, and then the proportion to be paid at Level 2 is calculated. The proportion for each level is

then multiplied by the number of children in the group at the appropriate rate.

How do I complete the application for rotational groups?

Add the number of funded enrolments who always attend funded kindergarten sessions together. For example, in a rotational model where five groups of ten children attend sessions with a total of 30 children, the ECTS will be calculated based on each of the smaller sub-groups of ten children.

How do I apply for the ECTS?

Service providers can apply using *SmartyGrants*: https://detearlyyears.smartygrants.com.au/ECTS_2017

A separate on-line application is required for each service with eligible teachers. Each application captures information at the group level for both team and non-team teaching service delivery models, so there is no longer a requirement to complete a different application for team teaching models.

How is the ECTS paid?

Once an application is approved by the Department, payments are made to the kindergarten service provider as a one-off annual grant for the calendar year.

Once the grant entitlement has been paid for the year, the Department does **not** adjust for changes in enrolment numbers or a change in the teacher's level.

Payments are recorded on the Kindergarten Information Management (KIM) System and processed through the Service Agreement Management System (SAMS).

³ The number of enrolments confirmed by a service provider during the annual data confirmation process

Do services need to provide evidence of teacher validation?

Evidence of eligibility is required for all teachers.

Suitable evidence includes:

- a copy of the teacher's validation certificate
- a letter from the service provider confirming that validation was not required for the teacher under the MECA 2005, VECTAA 2009 or LGECEEA 2009 provisions
- a copy of a letter from Kindergarten Parents Victoria (KPV) dated 2009 confirming the teacher's level under the VECTAA 2009.

What do we mean by paid as an 'equivalent' to the EEEA or VECTEA Level 2 or 3?

The salary structures used for calculation of the ECTS are specified in the EEEA 2016 and VECTEA 2016. A service provider that employs a teacher under an enterprise agreement that uses an equivalent salary structure and validation process can apply for ECTS if the teacher has met the validation requirements.

When do applications close?

Applications for 2017 will close on *31 December 2017*. Applications received after this date will not be eligible for payment.

Does employing a teacher(s) eligible for the ECTS automatically mean that our service will receive ECTS funding?

In the event the applications exceed available funding, it is possible that some services may not receive ECTS funding.