Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool (EYALT) – 2025 Mid-Year Funding Guidelines

Summary

These guidelines apply to services who are successful in the 2025 mid-year intake. For services who were successful in January 2025, please refer to the 2025 Early Years Assessment and Learning Tool funding guidelines.

Funded kindergarten services who have been approved to use the EYALT for the first time in mid-2025 will have access to a service support package.

This support package includes:

- a flexible grant of up to $3,150 (ex GST) to support activities required to implement and embed use of the EYALT in the early years planning cycle
- access to a range of EYALT specific professional learning events and resources.

Approved providers will receive the change management grant in one instalment in Assessment Period 1 (Term 1 2026).

Change management grant

The change management grants allow services to tailor how they support EYALT implementation based on their individual change management and professional learning support needs and goals.

This may include:

- covering the costs associated with setting up access to the EYALT, including time to engage practice and technical supports
- covering the backfill costs of providing time for teachers and educators to:
  - attend the introductory professional learning session
  - attend online group coaching practice sessions focused on the practical use of the tool
  - participate in online Communities of Practice forums focused on improving knowledge of early childhood learning progressions and assessment for learning skills
  - complete the EYALT modules for each child. This is anticipated to take 5-15 mins for each module for each child, reducing as familiarity with the modules increases
- purchasing or upgrading IT equipment that is to be used for logging on and completing the tool modules (e.g. electronic tablet).

Payments will be made automatically through Arrival (the replacement for the Kindergarten Information Management System) and can be tracked by the approved provider through its service agreement with the Department of Education (the department) on the Funded Agency Channel.

It is the responsibility of the approved provider to make the EYALT grant funding available to the service where the qualified early childhood teacher(s) and educators are employed and registered to use EYALT.

Please note that there is no additional funding supplied to services that registered and were approved to use for the EYALT in previous intakes. However, teachers and educators from all services that use EYALT are welcome to participate in the EYALT specific professional learning opportunities in 2025 and 2026.

Funding acquittal

As a condition of funding, successful applicants must complete an acquittal survey. This survey will be distributed in December 2026. The acquittal process is planned to conclude in early 2027.

Successful kindergarten services must keep records of how the grant funding was expended, including receipts for purchases made using grant funding. While those receipts will not need to be attached to the acquittal survey, the department may request evidence at a later date.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to apply to use the EYALT, services must meet the following criteria:

- be approved to deliver a state-funded kindergarten program for 3 and/or 4-year-olds with the program led by a fully qualified early childhood teacher,
- be rated as at least Meeting the National Quality Standard overall, and
- have leadership and service commitment to supporting teachers and educators to attend and utilise professional learning to embed the EYALT in everyday practice.

Who can I contact?

If you need support or any further information, you can:

- contact your local Kindergarten Improvement Advisor (KIA) through your Early Childhood Improvement Branch www.vic.gov.au/contact-early-childhood-improvement-branch
- email the department's Assessment for Learning team at early.years.assessment@education.vic.gov.au
- visit the department's website www.vic.gov.au/early-years-assessment-and-learning-tool.