

Early Childhood Teacher Supplement 2018

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 or temporary teacher employed for three consecutive months or more in the calendar year for which the ECTS is being sought, to deliver a funded kindergarten program for children in the year before school
 - be a VIT registered early childhood teacher
- AND**
- be classified as a Level 2.3 or above as per the Victorian Early Childhood Teachers and Educators Agreement 2016 (VECTEA) or Early Education Employees Agreement 2016 (EEEA) (or equivalent)¹

Which teachers are not eligible?

The following teachers are not eligible for the ECTS:

- employed at the service for a period of less than three consecutive months
- employed to cover only lunch breaks
- employed under an Agreement or Award that is not equivalent¹ to the VECTEA or the EEEA.

Note: The Education Services (Teachers) Award 2010 is not equivalent to the VECTEA or the EEEA.

What is the ECTS rate?

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 or rural). For rural services with 18 or fewer enrolments a base funding rate is applied.

Early Childhood Teacher Supplement	January – December 2018 Rates
Level 2.3	
Standard rate	\$91 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$113 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$2,034 per service
Level 2.4 & 2.5	
Standard rate	\$237 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$294 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$5,292 per service
Level 3	
Standard rate	\$593 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$736 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$13,248 per service

¹ 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 ² 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 per week for four terms for a group** irrespective of the number of teachers delivering that program.

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 per term delivered by each eligible teacher (up to the cap of 15 hours per week for 4 terms for the group).

The proportion of the grant to be paid at Level 3 is calculated first, followed by Level 2.4 & 2.5 then level 2.3. 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 to each group in SmartyGrants.

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/ECTS2018>

A separate on-line application is required for each service with eligible teachers.

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).

² The number of enrolments confirmed by a service provider during the annual data confirmation process

Do services need to provide evidence of teacher validation?

For Level 3 teachers you will require a copy of the teacher's validation certificate

Evidence is not required for Level 2.3-2.5 teacher, however, these teachers must:

- have progressed through the salary scale in accordance with the rules of incremental progression
- be classified at Level 2.3 or above as per the VECTEA 2016 or EEEA 2016 (or equivalent)¹
- have been listed as the corresponding level in KIM at the time of kindergarten confirmation

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

The salary structures used for calculation of the ECTS are specified in the EEEA 2016 and VECTEA 2016. A service provider employing 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 for Level 3, or the years of experience requirements for Levels 2.3 to 2.5.

When do applications close?

Applications for 2018 will close on **31 December 2018**.

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.