

Office of Local Government



COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE

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14 April 2020



NSW Government funding for council childcare services FAQ online

[An FAQ page is now online](#) regarding the NSW Government's commitment of up to \$82 million to support 260 council-run childcare centres. This website will be updated when further information is available.

This initiative will support local government early childhood services should they not be eligible for the Australian Government's JobKeeper program or other additional support from the Australian Government above the 50 per cent fee replacement program.

This funding is primarily focused on council-operated Long Day Care services and Out of School Hours Care services, including Vacation Care. Local Council Preschools are primarily funded by the NSW Government, and will benefit from funding announced to support these services.

Family Day Care educators are able to access assistance through the JobKeeper package as well as the Commonwealth's Exceptional Circumstances Supplementary Payments.

Councils who opt into this funding should be able to remain open and provide services. The Department of Education will continue to work with the Local Government sector to finalise implementation arrangements.



Helping seniors stay well and connected

A range of resources are now available to help seniors who are self-isolating during the COVID-19 crisis.

The Department of Communities and Justice has developed [a webpage](#), which is being regularly updated, listing these

resources which include where to go for up-to-date information on COVID-19, how to access financial support, tips on maintaining mental wellbeing, and more.

Councils are also asked to please share [this factsheet](#) on their social channels, which includes information on delivery of groceries and medications, mental health, and more.

In addition, this week the NSW Government launched [the Combatting Social Isolation for Seniors during COVID-19 Grant Program](#).

The new program recognises that seniors are likely to be more socially isolated while staying at home. The program will support projects that help seniors connect and engage with others and reduce social isolation and loneliness.

These projects can be delivered online or through other means to support seniors without access or capability to use the internet.

The program offers one-off grants from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for organisations to provide engagement opportunities for seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Applications are open now and will close on 26 April. The short application time is necessary to enable successful organisations to receive funding and commence delivery of their projects as soon as possible.

Councils combating COVID-19

Many councils are doing incredible work for their local communities in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. That inspirational work should be celebrated – and we want to hear from you to help spread the word.



If you have colleagues within your council that you would like to see mentioned and congratulated on the OLG website going forward, please contact your Council Engagement Manager.



Information and resources

Online survey reminder

OLG is reminding councils to complete an online survey each day to make it easier to report their needs and issues. Council can access the online

survey [here](#).

Data on COVID-19 cases

Councils can access the latest data on the number of COVID-19 cases by local government area and by local health district on the NSW Health website [here](#).

Quicklinks

Councils can access the latest information and resources about COVID-19 on the [NSW Government](#), [NSW Health](#) and [Commonwealth Government](#) and [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) websites. The [Office of Local Government](#) also has a COVID-19 section on its website.

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