



**THE HON KATE ELLIS MP**  
Minister for Employment Participation  
Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**OUTSIDE SCHOOL CARE EXTENDED IN TRIAL FOR FAMILIES**

Organisations providing Outside School Hours Care are being urged to consider taking part in an Australian Government initiative designed to expand and improve child care services provided to families.

Minister for Early Childhood and Child Care Kate Ellis said from tomorrow (Friday) groups would start receiving formal EOIs about funding to deliver more flexible Outside School Hours Care.

These organisations include those interested in delivering OSCH for the first time or those that want to expand the scope of their OSCH services.

Ms Ellis said the Gillard Government was investing more than \$5.5 million to trial models of flexible child care that better meet the needs of modern families, including those that cannot pick up their children immediately after school.

“This initiative will see the delivery of more after school hours care, which is what families around Australia have been calling for,” Ms Ellis said.

“It’s all about improving accessibility and making OSCH more responsive to the needs of modern Australian families.

“As part of a 12 month trial, around 60 service providers will be supported to develop and deliver projects aimed at improving OSHC services within their communities.”

Ms Ellis said under the initiative, service providers may be able extend their hours of care or deliver new programs that enrich a child’s development while in care.

“Parents regularly tell me how difficult it is to manage the 3pm pick up, so outside school hours care is a vital part of giving parents the flexibility they need to stay in the workforce,” she said.

“Through the Government’s new outside school hours care flexibility trial we will begin to see some really exciting and innovative approaches develop.

“Groups with ideas to establish new services using existing infrastructure should also register their interest, because we know there is huge demand for school aged care but not always enough services where families need them.

“We know there’s strong demand for school age child care.

“To find ways to deliver new services, our funding includes support for 12 Community Coordinators who will work with centres, school parent associations and other community groups to help them address their out of school hours child care needs.

“Service providers will also receive training from leaders in this field.”

A number of services have already been identified as potential participants through initial awareness about the trials.

The sorts of projects already identified include those targeted at the 9-12 age group as well as projects which are focused on changing current practices to better respond to the needs of shift workers.

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