

# Early Childhood Teacher Supplement 2020

## 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 annually 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?

To be eligible for the ECTS, all of the following criteria must be met:

- be a VIT registered early childhood teacher employed to deliver a funded kindergarten program
- work for three consecutive months or more in the calendar year for which the ECTS is being sought
- 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<sup>1</sup>)

### 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 equivalent<sup>1</sup> to the VECTEA or the EEEA.

<sup>1</sup> An Agreement with an equivalent salary structure and validation process to the VECTEA and EEEA

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

### Which enrolments attract the ECTS?

Service providers can apply for ECTS funding for all children enrolled in a funded Three or Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program delivered by an eligible teacher (as outlined above).

### What is the ECTS rate?

The ECTS is paid at a per child rate 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 2020 Rates
<b>Level 2.3</b>	
Standard rate	\$95 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$119 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$2,142 per service
<b>Level 2.4</b>	
Standard rate	\$163 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$202 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$3,636 per service
<b>Level 2.5</b>	
Standard rate	\$249 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$309 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$5,562 per service
<b>Level 3</b>	
Standard rate	\$623 per enrolment
Rural rate – 19 or more enrolments	\$773 per enrolment
Rural rate - 18 or fewer enrolments	\$13,914 per service

The ECTS is calculated as follows:

The number of confirmed per capita enrolments <sup>2</sup> plus Early Start Kindergarten funded enrolments taught by the eligible teacher(s) in a funded kindergarten group
x
The applicable annual rate per child (prorated for funded Three-Year-Old Kindergarten groups receiving fewer than 15 hours per week)
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).

**How is the ECTS calculated when two or more teachers are delivering a funded kindergarten program at the same time?**

The contact hours of the teacher at the highest ECTS rate are taken into account first followed by the teacher(s) at lower rates (up to a combined maximum of 15 hours). The hours at each level are then multiplied by the number of children in the group at the appropriate rate.

**How do I complete the application for rotational groups?**

To streamline the application process this year, applications have been pre-populated with enrolment and group data entered in the Kindergarten Information Management (KIM) system.

For rotational groups, enter the proportion of hours delivered by each eligible teacher to the enrolments in the group. The ECTS will be calculated as outlined above for services with two or more eligible teachers per group and when two or more teachers are delivering a funded kindergarten program at the same time.

**How do I apply for the ECTS?**

The Department will send an invitation to all eligible services via email.

**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 processed through KIM.

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

**Do we need to provide evidence of teacher validation?**

No. The Department has a record of all teachers validated at Level 3 from VETASSESS and will cross check against this list.

Evidence is not required for a 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)<sup>1</sup>
- have been listed as the corresponding level in KIM at the time of annual confirmation

**What is 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 2020 will close on **8 December 2020**.

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

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