

## Information for Local Councils

You may receive requests from small schools in your council area for financial support to pay for a facilitator to run an eKindy pod. The facilitator will be a person who is usually a teacher aide, playgroup co-ordinator or someone vetted by the school as suitable to have this position. The hourly rate (at time of writing) for a casual teacher aide is \$25.8721 and \$21.0342 for a permanent teacher aide. The numbers of hours per week will be dependent on the context of the school: i.e. if parents are coming long distances it may be a full school day of 5 hours. For more information on the role and eKindy in small schools please follow this link:

<https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Supportandresources/Formsanddocuments/Documents/eKindy/ekindy-facilitator-role-small-school.pdf>

### What is eKindy?

*Kindergarten for rural, remote, overseas, travelling or children with medical conditions!*

- A flexible 'at home' kindergarten program ...
- with online support from qualified teachers located at schools of distance education throughout Queensland...
- equivalent to a centre-based program...
- some small schools may set up a face-to-face eKindy pod for some sessions.

### Why does a school ask for financial support for eKindy?

*In some areas, all parents are unable to stay for the duration of the program at the school. This means that the school may wish to setup a 'Stand-alone care' service. For more information on this service follow this link:*

<http://deta.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/pdfs/ecs-act/stand-alone-care.pdf>

*To do this, the school cannot be the funding source as a primary school principal cannot be responsible for children who are not school age and this is why they seek funding from outside sources, local councils being an option.*

### What does eKindy do to assist the school?

*eKindy provides free of charge:*

- a qualified eKindy teacher contact to guide and mentor the facilitator in implementing an appropriate program
- two visits from the eKindy teacher per year
- a complete set of the eKindy program materials
- a box of on-loan resources – 1 per semester
- professional development opportunities for the facilitator

### How does this benefit our local area and families?

- Supports families who would not normally participate in a service of this type due to educational limitations
- Gives ICT access if not available at home
- Provides learning opportunities for young children in a social environment
- Introduces families to each other and expands their support networks
- Provides opportunities to assess children's speech and other areas of development allowing strategies to be put in place as early as possible
- Promotes the value of learning and the work of the local school
- Value adds to the services provided for families in your area
- Profiles the council as addressing the needs of their local families

*For more information on eKindy contact the Brisbane School of Distance Education (07) 3727 2860. Visit the Brisbane School of Distance Education website eKindy page <https://brisbanesde.eq.edu.au/Curriculum/ekindy/Pages/ekindy.aspx>*