

Appendix A

Families as First Teachers

The Families as First Teachers (FaFT) program was established in 2008. Currently the program is operating in 21 very remote sites and a further 14 very remote sites are serviced by a mobile team across the Northern Territory. The program supports young Indigenous children, young Indigenous parents, family development and family capacity building to provide Indigenous children with the best possible start in life. During 2013 the program engaged 2160 children and 2013 parents/carers.

2013 Attendance	FaFT	Mobile FaFT	Total
Number of children who attended early learning sessions	1626	534	2160
Number of parents who attended early learning sessions with their children	1542	471	2013
Number of early learning sessions delivered in 2013	2281	245	2526

The FaFT program is operated by the NT Department of Education and funded through both the Northern Territory Government and by Australian Government. Initial results from the Australian Early Development Index and NAPLAN indicate that significant improvements are being achieved for children at the commencement of school.

The program employs 92 staff members. Of these employees, 56 are local indigenous community members.

Very Remote Community Sites

Barkly	Alice Springs	Arnhem	Palmerston & Rural	Katherine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alekarenge • Elliott * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ntaria School • Papunya * • Yuendumu School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angurugu School • Shepherdson College (Galiwin'ku) • Gapuwiyak • Maningrida • Milingimbi • Numbulwar • Ramingining • Alyarrmandumanja Umbakumba School • Yirrkala School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunbalanya School • Nguu # • Wadeye # 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borroloola School • Lajamanu School • Ngukurr College • Kalkaringi *

*Denotes that these sites are 100% NT Government funded.

Operation of the Nguu site is outsourced to the Tiwi Shire Council, and the Wadeye site to Catholic Education.

Very Remote Community Sites Supported by Mobile Teams

Sandover	Lasseter	Tanami	Barkly	Katherine*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ampilatwatja • Alpururulam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finke • Titjikala • Areyonga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt. Allen • Mt. Liebig • Nyirripi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Murray Downs • Canteen Creek • Epenarra 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulman • Bulla Camp • Jilkminggan

*All very remote community sites supported by mobile team are funded through Australian Government Budget Based Funding, except for the Katherine region, which is funded by the NT Government.

Abecedarian implementation

Australian Research Council (ARC) Grant

The FaFT program delivers the Abecedarian Approach Australia (3A), an evidence-based literacy approach and parenting program. The 3A model includes three elements, LearningGames, Conversational Reading and Enriched Caregiving. 3A continues to be subject to research on its effectiveness on child development, preparation for and adaption to preschool and relevance in the Indigenous context.

The University of Melbourne, in partnership with the Department of Education, has been awarded \$730,000 over three years to conduct an evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the implementation of 3A in two remote FaFT programs (Maningrida and Galiwinku). Onsite research commenced in 2014. The first Project Management Committee meeting was held on 12 March 2014.

Resource Development

A number of resource development projects, which support the high quality implementation of 3A, are currently underway. One piece of work is the adaptation of the 36-60 month Learning Games® resource.

The digital copies of NT Learning Games 1-100 will be available from the Early Childhood Policy and Regulation SharePoint. Access to the NT LearningGames® is bound by copyright arrangements and requires users to sign a legal agreement to comply with copyright restrictions, prior to access being granted.

Training

The key role of the Abecedarian Manager is to provide timely, quality training for implementation of 3A to remote, corporate, and regional, staff. A number of training 'resources' currently exist, and are the basis for professional development and/or orientation.

Indigenous staff training co-ordination

Two FaFT program objectives are Indigenous capacity building to support healthy development of young children, and upskilling an Indigenous workforce in knowledge of early learning and family support.

Currently each FaFT site is sourcing Indigenous staff training linked to the performance management plan, identified learning needs and interests and availability of training. For example, some Family Liaison Officers are joining Assistant Teachers to study Indigenous Education Worker training; others are studying Children's Services with childcare staff. We encourage all Indigenous staff to enrol in accredited training and will support sites to investigate availability and access.

The Department of Education is working with the Batchelor Institute to discuss implementation of accredited training for Family Liaison Officers and playgroup leaders who may join with Mobile Preschool Assistant Teachers enrolled to study Certificate III in Children's Services.

Appendix B

Financial subsidies and grants provided by the NT Government directly to education and care services

1. **NT Early Childhood Services Subsidy** is non-discretionary and aims to assist operators of approved long day care and three year old kindergarten services contain the cost of care for parents/guardians and maintain fee charges at an acceptable level.

The subsidy is subject to acceptance of the conditions of the scheme outlined in an annual service agreement and ongoing compliance with the law and regulations.

How is it calculated?:

The subsidy is paid directly to services quarterly and has two flat rates:

- i. Children under two years of age \$27.37 per equivalent full-time place
- ii. Children two years of age and over \$20.20 per equivalent full-time place

Long day care: services must establish the number of **equivalent-full time (EFT)** places by examining a sample two week period during each quarter. The subsidy is then calculated by multiplying the centre's average EFT by the number of operating weeks, by the current subsidy rate.

Three year old kindergartens: three year old kindergarten is defined as an education and care service that provides a regular educational program for children three years of age. The subsidy is paid at full capacity plus an additional two hours for programming. Kindergartens must nominate the number of sessions per week and the number of operational weeks.

Current number of services eligible: 75

Total expenditure, 2012-13 financial year: \$3.908 million (plus GST)

Link for further information: [NT Early Childhood Services Subsidy](#)

2. **Long Day Care Upgrade Grant** provides financial assistance to approved not-for-profit and community-based approved long day care and three year old kindergarten services for building and ground upgrades to help address compliance issues.

The grant scheme is available annually by application. Priority is given to building and ground upgrades that are considered to require the most immediate attention to ensure the health and safety of children and to meet regulatory standards.

Applicants are required to demonstrate a willingness to contribute financially towards the cost of the proposed building and ground upgrades either by equal cost share or a contribution up to 50 per cent of the cost by a sponsoring organisation.

Prior to the transfer of funds, successful applicants are required to enter into a funding agreement with the department. All expenses relating to the nominated projects must be acquitted with the department; which is a condition on eligibility for future grant applications.

Current number of services eligible: 48

Grant pool: \$160 000 (plus GST) per annum

3. **Long Day Care Toy and Equipment Grant** provides approved long day care services only (excluding kindergartens) with funding for the purchase of quality and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment.

This grant is calculated using the average utilisation rates collected through the subsidy quarterly reporting process. The total annual funding is divided equally amongst services and paid every second calendar year; with half being paid in one financial period and the remainder in the other financial period (in that calendar year).

Current number of services eligible: 73

Grant pool: \$150 000 (plus GST) per annum

4. **The Business Support for Community Based Childcare Services** is a joint initiative between the Department of Education and Department of Business (DoB). An officer within DoB works with individual community based child care services to develop strategies that will enhance governance and financial management practices. The program is designed to strengthen the community based child care centre sector as independent viable businesses by enhancing and promoting coordinated support services suitable to the association's specific needs.

Current number of services eligible: 73

Grant pool: \$150 000 (plus GST) per annum

Appendix C**Average service fees**

Please note: data has been averaged, thus fee range can be different between services.

Long Day Care – Data collected Q2, 2013-14.

Under 2 years old		Over 2 years old	
Daily Rate	Weekly rate – full-time	Daily Rate	Weekly rate – full-time
\$82	\$379	\$79	\$362

Average OSHC – data collected 7/3/14

After school care		Vacation care	
Daily Rate	Weekly rate	Daily Rate	Weekly rate
\$27	\$97	\$55	\$220

Family Day Care – as at March 2014* fees set by educators so fees range within schemes

Standard hours 7.30am – 5.30pm		Non-standard hours, before 7.30am and after 5.30pm	
Min per hour	Max per hour	Min per hour	Max per hour
\$6.50	\$10.10	\$7.10	\$12.00

3 Year Old Kindergarten – as at March 2014

- \$24 per child, per 2 hour session
- \$36 per child, per 3 hour session