



NSW Department of
Community Services

PRESCHOOL INVESTMENT AND REFORM PLAN Growth Phase

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I work in a small preschool service in a rural area and I think we could increase our numbers to take more children. Who should I contact?

A. The Preschool Investment and Reform Plan Growth Phase organisations are CareWest Inc and Community Child Care Cooperative. Both CareWest Inc and Community Child Care Cooperative will be providing development and support services to preschools to increase their preschool places.

CareWest Inc will provide services for the Central West and Orana/Far West DoCS network areas and Community Child Care Cooperative will be providing services for all other DoCS networks areas state-wide.

PIRP Growth Phase Development and Support organisations

CareWest Inc	Community Child Care Cooperative
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Q. Will there be any information sessions conducted in my area and where can I access more information?

A. Information sessions will be conducted by both organisations around the state. CareWest and Community Child Care Cooperative will contact services with dates and venues for information sessions in your region.

For general information on the Preschool Investment and Reform Plan Growth Phase visit the Department of Community Services website:

www.community.nsw.gov/PIRP

Q. I want to increase the number of places in my preschool but I don't know if we are eligible or how to go about it. What are some of the things I should think about when I am considering increased places under the PIRP Growth Phase?

A. Preschools should consider things that impact the overall operation of the preschool and long term viability, such as:

- Current service delivery model and how changes may affect funding under the preschool funding model (see the working model of the working model of the new funding approach on the DoCS website: www.community.nsw.gov.au/PIRP)
- Capacity of the preschool to take in more children for example, staff numbers, floor space, possible future changes to premises
- Need for increased preschool places in the community; look at Australian Bureau of Statistics population data, local council community social plans and local community demographics
- Attendance patterns, utilisation and vacancies and any barriers that might prevent children and families from accessing preschool.

Q. If my preschool has been identified as being able to increase the number of children attending and I have to increase my licensed places, will CareWest Inc or Community Child Care Cooperative prepare my licence application for me?

A. No. The role of CareWest Inc and Community Child Care Cooperative is to provide support and training to build and develop the capacity of preschools and their staff to create additional preschool places so that all children have universal access to preschool in the year before school. This does not include the preparation of licensing documentation for additional licensed places. This would remain the responsibility of the licensee. For more information about licensing please visit the DoCS website > for agencies that work with us > children's services > licensing forms
www.community.nsw.gov.au/for_agencies_that_work_with_us/childrens_services/application_forms_and_guides.html

Q. My preschool did not get an increase and I have been told my funding for 2008/09 will be the same as in 2007/08. Can you tell me what my funding will be for 2009/10 and beyond?

A. Under the preschool funding model, all preschools will have their funding reassessed each year based on the data collected during the representative week each year. The funding allocation will change each year depending on the number and characteristics of children in the service. At a minimum, preschools will continue to receive their 2007/08 level of recurrent funding (without indexation).

Q. How will the PIRP Growth Phase rollout be of any benefit if my preschool did not receive an increase in funding last year?

A. The Preschool Investment and Reform Plan is about increasing participation of children who are not currently accessing the preschool system. The aim is to make attending preschool equitable and accessible for all children in the year before school. The Growth Phase is about increasing preschool places available to children and reducing or removing barriers to accessing preschool places. The PIRP Growth Phase organisations can work with you to explore options to maximise attendance and funding.

Q. We are a small stand alone one unit preschool, with a decreasing population and have concerns about long term viability, what are my options?

A. Ensure your service has developed a strategic plan that outlines future direction. You might like to consider different options of childcare for example, a mobile service model may be appropriate for your community as there may be other small communities in close proximity that could benefit from a mobile service. If you are a small service you could consider amalgamation with other services or a group of small preschools may consider auspice by one larger incorporated body. Contact your PIRP Growth Phase organisation to discuss your options.

Q. We are a multipurpose centre with funding from different sources, how will I work out which model will be more viable into the future?

A. You need to determine what the best service model is for your community. For the preschool component you could refer to the working model of the new funding approach on DoCS website (www.community.nsw.gov.au/PIRP). This tool allows you to test how variations in your service delivery may affect your funding levels e.g. changes in hours of operation, number of children attending and characteristics of those children. Contact your PIRP Growth Phase organisation to discuss your options.

Q. I thought my service may be able to get new spots but I have not heard anything yet. When will the new spots be rolled out?

A. CareWest Inc and Community Child Care Cooperative will begin by conducting research and consultation with the children's services sector to identify services that are most able to grow new places. Information from this research and consultation will be used to develop an implementation plan that specifies where places should be established, based on identified community need, so that sustainable growth can be achieved.

The new opportunities will be created in existing preschools in the first instance. This means that in the priority areas preschools that can provide services to increased numbers of children will be able to access additional funding to remove barriers to access. It is anticipated that places will be rolled out in stages from mid 2009.

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