

Early Education Service Delivery Prices project

Project briefing pack

Australian Government Department of Education
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Deloitte
Access **Economics**

Contents

This information has been prepared to brief Approved Providers on the Early Education Service Delivery Prices (SDP) project, to share expectations and to answer key questions relating to participation in this research.

Contents	Overview
1. Overview of the Service Delivery Prices project and how you can be involved	
Overview of the SDP project	Purpose and outcomes of this research.
Your involvement	How Approved Providers (and their services) can be involved in this research.
Preparing for the survey and financial information	How to prepare for the survey and financial document upload.
Preparing for detailed data collection	How to express interest for detailed data collection.
2. Completing data collection activities through the portal	
How to access the portal and commence data collection.	How Approved Providers access the portal and start data collection.
About the portal	Overview of the portal and how to navigate.
Protecting your information	How information will be shared and used.
3. Additional supports and resources	
How to get additional support	Contact details for accessing support.
Other key resources	List of other key resources including department webpage and FAQs sheet.

1. Overview of the Service Delivery Prices project and how you can be involved

Overview of the Early Education Service Delivery Prices project

This project will provide an understanding of the true and reasonable costs to deliver safe and quality ECEC.

Deloitte Access Economics is conducting this work on behalf of the Australian Government Department of Education.

Purpose

- The Australian Government is committed to building a universal, affordable Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system.
- The Early Education Service Delivery Prices (SDP) project will provide an understanding of the costs to deliver safe and quality ECEC, including where these vary by location and cohort.

Sector engagement

- Approved Providers with ECEC services that receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) funding are invited to participate in this research.
- This includes: Centre Based Day Care, Outside of School Hours Care, Family Day Care and In Home Care providers.
- The research will also collect perspectives from ECEC educators and parents and carers through a family and workforce survey. This will explore perspectives on quality, cost and value.

Outcomes

- The SDP project itself will not change funding settings or set prices but will provide important information to help with future Government decisions.
- Any future reforms will be subject to decisions of Government.

Why does this research matter?

This research intends to capture a wide range of Approved Providers and services in the ECEC sector, to ensure that every provider and service situation can be captured and reported.

Cost of inclusion	Costs that may not be fully captured in current financial reporting	Costs associated with provision by ACCOs
Additional costs associated with supporting children with a disability and other forms of additional needs.	Costs such as unpaid staff time, peppercorn lease agreements and other costs which may be only partially captured in financial accounts; or not captured at all.	Additional and/or specific costs associated with ACCOs responding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child and community needs, including through delivering culturally strong ECEC.
Cost of provision in rural and remote areas	Costs associated with land, property and capital	Cost of quality indicators such as professional development and off-the-floor time
Additional costs faced by Approved Providers as a result of the geographic attributes of the location from which their services operate (e.g. rural and remote locations).	Costs borne by Approved Providers who own the land and buildings from which their services operate (under various financing arrangements) as well as costs experienced by services that operate under various forms of lease agreements.	Financial costs of professional development (labour and non-labour) as well as measures of quality indicators such as off-the-floor time for educators (beyond minimum requirements).

Your involvement

Approved Providers (and services) can participate through a survey, providing financial information, or participating in detailed data collection.



Survey

- **What:** Questions relate to the unique contexts faced by services, and perspectives on the relationship between quality and cost.
- **Who:** All Approved Providers can participate via a portal.



Financial information

- **What:** Uploading financial statements to provide information on costs of service delivery.
- **Who:** All Approved Providers can provide documents via a portal.



Detailed data collection

- **What:** The collection of service level financial and non-financial information about the inputs and activities that drive cost and quality service delivery.
- **Who:** Approved Providers will be invited to submit an expression of interest to participate. Selected services will be able to participate.

We strongly encourage you to participate in detailed data collection.

Your participation in the detailed data collection component of this research is critical. The service-level information captured through this exercise will be used to support with building a robust and representative national picture of the true and reasonable costs of delivering safe, quality ECEC. It is the most meaningful and significant way you can contribute to the outcomes of this research.

Preparing for the survey and financial information

Approved Providers should peruse key documents prior to completing the survey and collate key financial documents to be uploaded.



Survey

As part of this research, you can complete a survey via a portal. The survey will invite you to share your views on concepts and issues related to service quality and delivery prices, providing free-form written responses to a set of prompts related to the key areas of focus for this research.



Financial information

You have the opportunity to share key financial information with Deloitte Access Economics to support this research, via a portal. The financial information will be used to help understand current costs across the ECEC sector.

The following types of information may be shared:

- Profit and loss statements
- Annual reports
- Other financial statements such as expenditure or cashflow reports
- Other supporting documents to help interpret financial information e.g. auditor reports

Preparing for detailed data collection

Approved Providers will be invited to express interest for participation in detailed data collection.



Detailed data collection

- Detailed data collection will occur through a portal.
- The detailed data collection will capture information on the inputs and activities that drive cost and quality service delivery.
- Deloitte Access Economics will conduct an online or face-to-face consultation to support services to complete the tool.

More information about the detailed data collection (including consultations) will be provided in due course to participating Approved Providers.

Expressing interest

- Approved Providers will be invited to express interest to participate in detailed data collection.
- Submitting an EOI does not guarantee you will be chosen to participate in detailed data collection.
- Select Approved Providers / services will then be chosen to complete the detailed data collection.
- This will enable the subset of services that participate in this data collection to be representative of the broader sector.

Information on how to express interest is included in the next section.

Unique tool for each service type

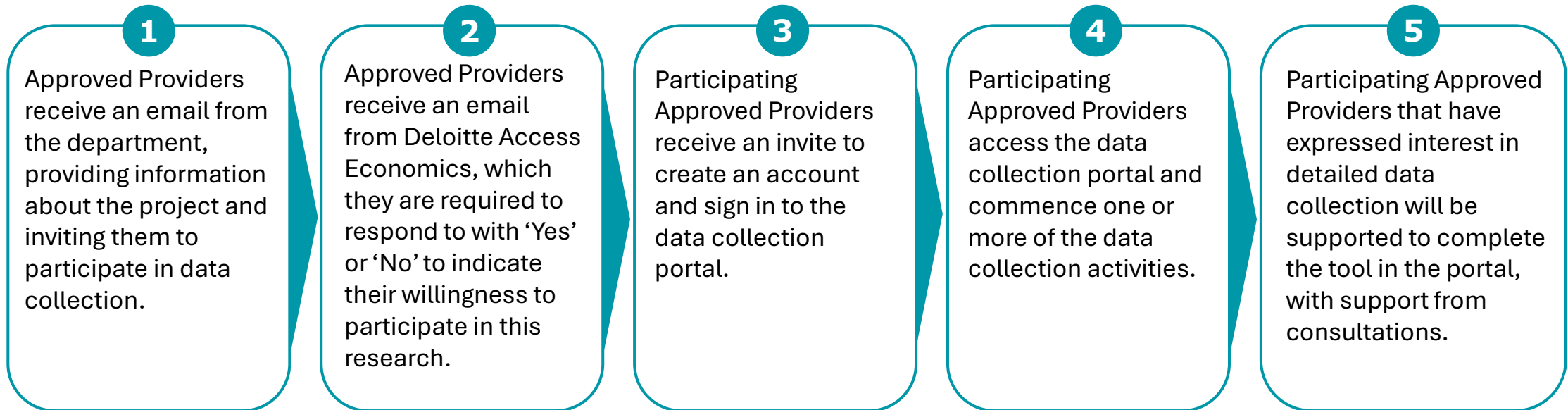
- The detailed data collection tool will be tailored to each service type: Centre Based Day Care (CBDC), Out of School Hours Care (OSHC), and Family Day Care (FDC). A separate tool and process will be introduced to support data collection for In Home Care (IHC).
- Each unique tool ensures that the detailed data collection questions are suitable for the service.
- If you express interest in participating in detailed data collection, Deloitte Access Economics will support you and provide more information.

2. Completing data collection activities through the portal

How to access the portal and commence data collection

To support the data collection process, participating Approved Providers will be invited to sign up to a portal where they will be able to complete the activities and access additional support resources.

Process for accessing the portal and commencing data collection



About the data collection portal (1/2)

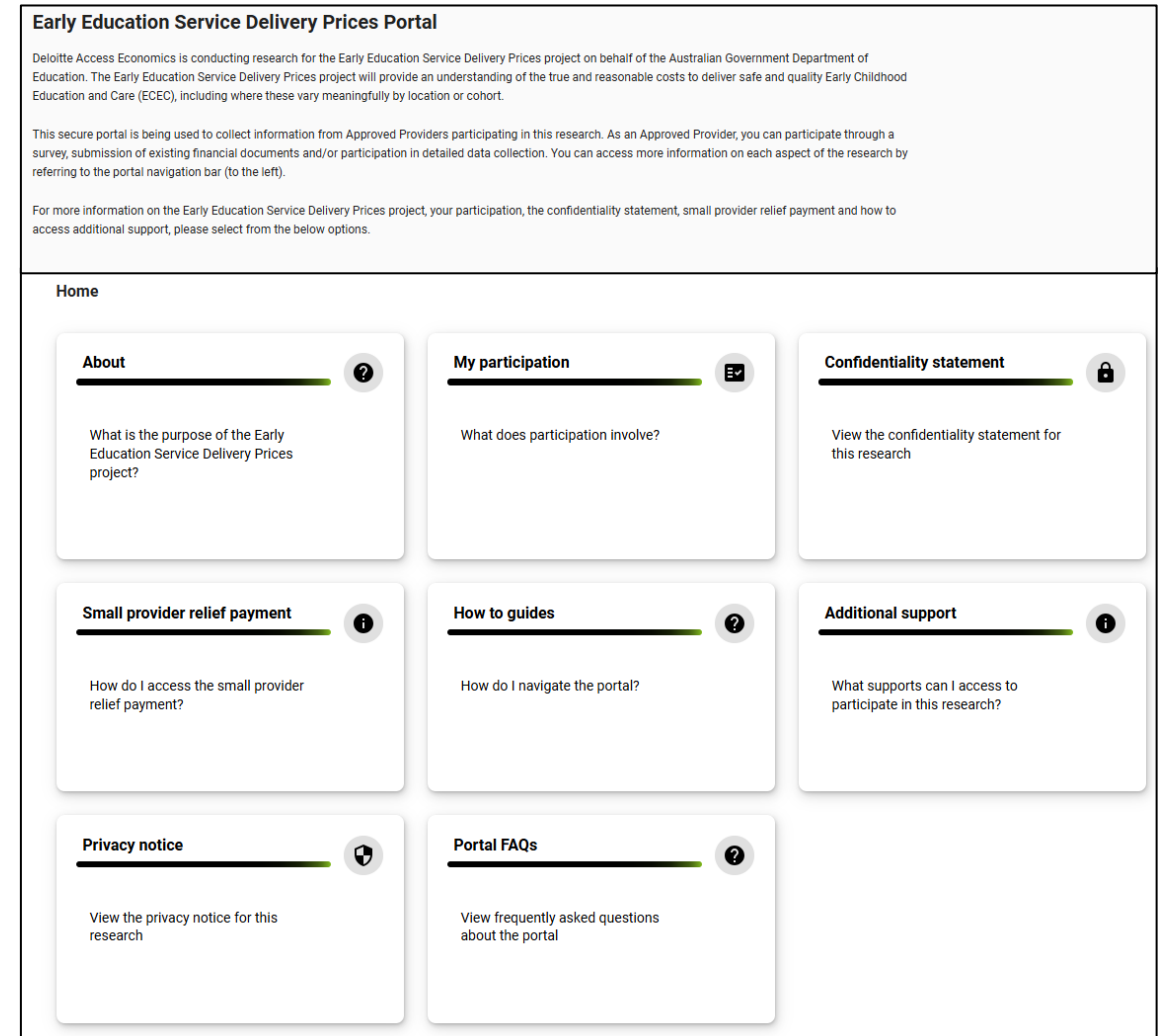
The data collection process will occur in the portal. Approved Providers will be able to access additional information and supporting resources.

- A dedicated portal has been developed to support both quantitative and qualitative data collection in this project.
- Additional information and navigation guidance about the portal will be provided to participating Approved Providers.

Home Page

- The home page of the portal has several tiles where Approved Providers can find more information about the research and your participation.
- Additionally, Approved Providers can access guidelines and resources to help them complete data collection and view additional support measures.

Screenshot: 'Home'



About the portal (2/2)

Participating Approved Providers can commence the data collection activities in the portal. Each data collection activity will have an overview of the activity and how to complete it.

Data collection

In the portal, Approved Providers can complete each data collection activity (survey, financial information upload, detailed data collection). Each activity will have **(1)** an overview that gives extra information about what the data collection activity requires and **(2)** a page where participating Approved Providers can participate in the data collection. Additional navigation information for the portal can be found in the ‘how-to guides’ via the home page.

Screenshot: ‘Complete the survey’

Approved Provider context

- Question 1
- Question 2

Delivery costs, practices and quality

- Question 3
- Question 4
- Question 5
- Question 6
- Question 7
- Question 8
- Question 9
- Question 10

Early Education Service Delivery Prices | Initial sector engagement questions

Approved Provider context

This section includes a brief set of questions on both Child Care Subsidy (CCS)-approved and non-CCS funded services delivered by your organisation.

Next

Screenshot: ‘Provide financial information’

Provide financial information

When you are ready, click provide financial and other information below to upload your documents.

Drag & drop files here, or click to browse

Supported formats: PDF, XLSX, DOCX (max 20MB each)

Protecting your information

Approved Providers will share specific data and information through the portal. This data will be used to analyse how and why costs vary and will only be used for its intended use.

How will data be captured?

- Approved Providers will share data and information through the portal. This will ensure that any information shared with Deloitte Access Economics and the Australian Government Department of Education meets strict confidentiality and data protection standards.
- Additional guidance on how to share data and information will be provided in the form of navigation guides, available in the 'How-to guide' section.

Further information about how your privacy and confidential information will be protected is outlined in the privacy notice and confidentiality statement.

These documents can be accessed via the portal home page.

How will data be used?

- Deloitte Access Economics will use the collected data to analyse how and why costs vary and to develop a dataset that can be used to inform the development of service delivery prices. All data collected during the project will be shared with the Australian Government Department of Education.
- This data may be used by the Australian Government Department of Education for other purposes related to policy development and reform, beyond service delivery prices.
- Data will not be disclosed to third parties without consent, except to meet legal or other regulatory authority requirements. Data will only be used for the intention it was collected.
- Following the conclusion of the project, your data will only be retained for as long as required by applicable laws, regulations, or professional standards and will then be destroyed. All data and materials provided by the department to Deloitte Access Economics must be destroyed at the end of the project, with this destruction confirmed in writing.

3. Additional supports and resources

How Approved Providers will be supported

Deloitte Access Economics will directly support Approved Providers throughout the data collection process.

- Deloitte Access Economics is here to support you throughout the process. If you require support to complete any component of this research, you can contact the team using the details below.
- For services participating in detailed data collection, Deloitte Access Economics will walk you through the data collection fields and support your staff to complete them. Deloitte Access Economics will also be available to field any questions from your staff.
- The Australian Government Department of Education will establish a Small Provider Relief Payment to support small providers to participate in the detailed data collection component of this research.

Please contact the Deloitte Access Economics team for questions about data collection and consultation



Email: EESDP@deloitte.com.au



Phone: 1800 371 146

Other key resources

There are various documents available to provide you with additional information, should you require it.

The Department's webpage is the official source of information about the project

<https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/about/strategy-and-evaluation/service-delivery-price>



Other key resources available on the portal include:

- Project briefing pack
- Project factsheet
- Project FAQs
- Privacy notice
- Confidentiality statement



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