

Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub Grant

Industry Briefing

11 December 2025

Supporting the
mental health
and wellbeing
of children
aged 0-12



The ACT Government acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region.

We recognise the contribution of lived and living experience to the work that we do together and the impacts of living with mental illness, suicidality, stigma and discrimination. We value their acquired expertise, both lived and learned, from these experiences.

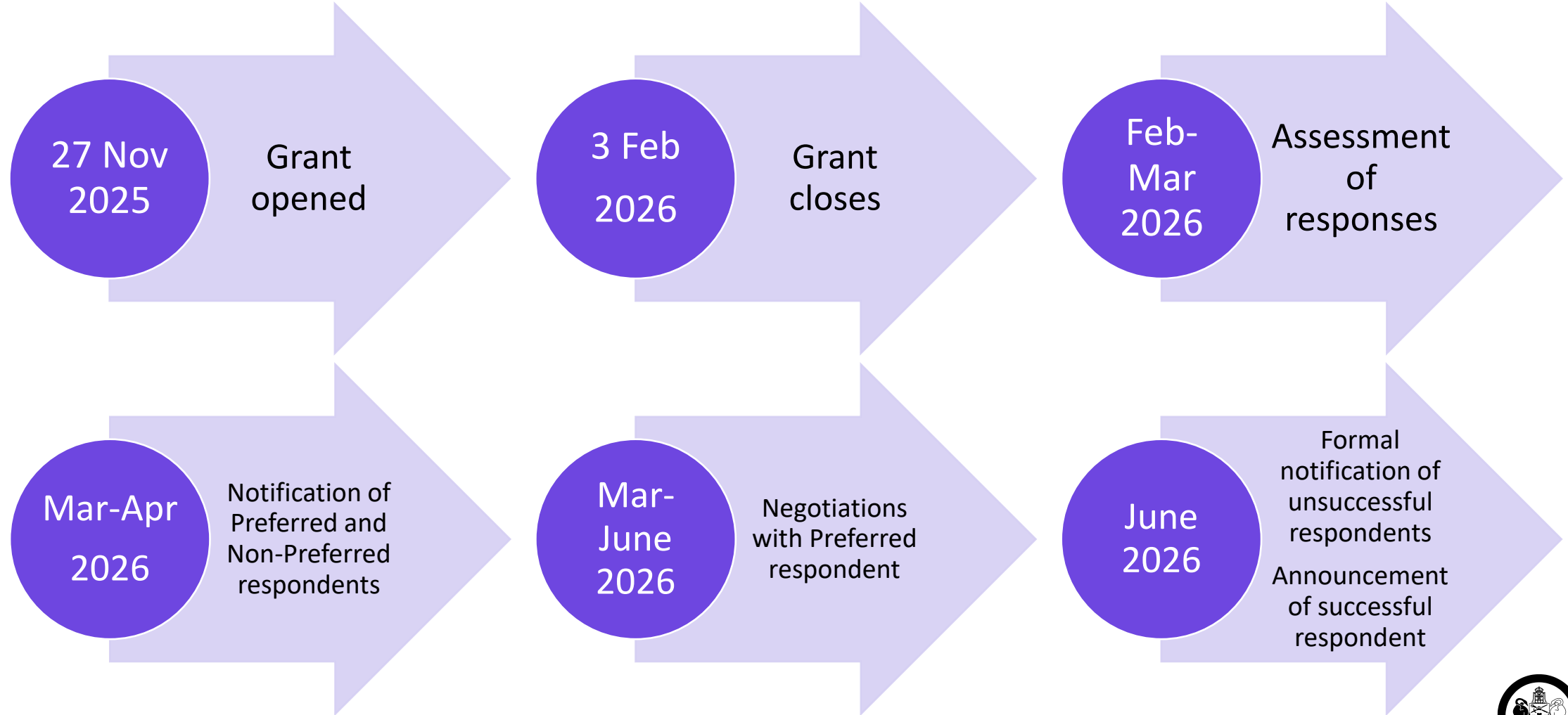
Overview

This session will cover:

- Background to the grant opportunity
- Grant funding
- Applicant eligibility
- Application process
- Tips for writing your application
- Assessment process



Key Dates



About the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub

- The ACT Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub (Kids Hub) will deliver community-based, multidisciplinary services where children aged 0 to 12 years, and their families, carers, and kin, can access free mental health and wellbeing supports.
- You won't need a diagnosis or referral to access services or support at a Kids Hub.
- The Kids Hub aims to target mild to moderate and emerging developmental, emotional, relational and/or behavioural challenges.



Background



- The ACT Kids Hub is part of a national initiative delivered by the Australian Government in partnerships with all states and territories.
- The ACT Kids Hub is jointly funded by the Australian and ACT governments.
- The project was previously known as Head to Health Kids. As part of changes to improve access to free mental health services, all Head to Health services have been renamed Medicare Mental Health services.
- The Kids Hubs aim to provide no-cost access to a range of health professionals and programs.
- The Kids Hub are intended to make a complex system easier for children and their families to navigate, providing integrated, comprehensive, multidisciplinary care in one place.

Location

Commercial leasing arrangements are being finalised, and we expect to be able to announce the service address shortly.

We can confirm the location is in **Tuggeranong**, with plenty of free parking and proximity to public transport.

The location is walking distance from other family support services, such as headspace Tuggeranong, the Child and Family Centre, the walk-in clinic, and the adult Medicare Mental Health service.

Health and Community Services Directorate will provide the non-exclusive use of this fitted-out location for services to be delivered. **Please see Section 3 of the grant requirements for more details.**



Why Tuggeranong?

Key 2024 AEDC findings for the ACT show that:

- The percentage of ACT children starting school with developmental vulnerabilities is higher than nationally.
- In the ACT, **Tuggeranong** has the highest percentage of children with vulnerability on more than two domains as well as the highest percentage of children requiring further assessment.

Why is this important:

Longitudinal linkage shows early developmental vulnerability is highly predictive of later mental health issues.

Domain-specific declines, especially in emotional maturity and social competence, highlight early signals of risk.



Perinatal, infant, and child 'hub'

9



- In addition to the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub service, the site is proposed to be a broader perinatal, infant, and child hub.
- This will include other complimentary services sharing the space, either full-time or part-time.
- The hub is intended to support children and their families, carers, and kin through a range of co-located, integrated services.
- We would like to see other services using the facilities, such as the group room, training room or other spaces, to provide holistic supports that complement and work with the Kids Hub service.
- The Kids Hub service provider (or providers) will be the primary service at the site.

Key findings of the 2023/2024 consultation report

10

- Stakeholders preferred a 'non-medical' model
- Focus on trauma-informed, holistic care
- Psychoeducation is important
- Support for siblings of children with mental ill health
- Involvement of an ACCO is encouraged
- 'Walk-in' / no referral model was universally well received
- Capacity to run group programs

This report is found on the first page of the Kids Hub application form on Smartygrants platform, along with other helpful documents



Thriving Kids and the Kids Hub are different initiatives

Thriving Kids will seek to deliver supports for children aged 8 and under, and their families, outside the NDIS. It will focus on identifying developmental differences or delays earlier and establishing additional supports for children with developmental delays and disability with low to moderate support needs.

Children with significant and permanent disability support needs will continue to be supported through the NDIS.

The final design of Thriving Kids is still being developed at a national level.

Medicare Mental Health Kids Hubs are a network of hubs providing free mental health and wellbeing support for children aged 0–12 years experiencing mild to moderate emotional, behavioural, or relational challenges.

The design of the Kids Hubs are informed by the National Service Model and localised for each state and territory.

Grant funding

Total funding for this grant is **\$2,450,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years.**

There is the possibility of extension for up to a further three years, with funding to be negotiated.

There are a variety of ways this funding may be allocated:

Option A – Service provider delivers all parts of the Kids Hub service - \$2,450,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years; OR

Option B - Pre-formed consortium delivers all parts of the Kids Hub service - \$2,450,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years; OR

Option C – Different providers deliver individual elements of the Kids Hub service, with funding as below:

1. Provide on-site service delivery for children aged 0-4 years - \$875,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years
2. Provide on-site service delivery for children aged 5-12 years - \$875,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years
3. Provide specialist assessment and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental concerns - \$350,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years
4. Provide outreach supports - \$350,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years

Grant streams

OPTION A – One organisation to deliver all parts of the Kids Hub service

This will include providing intake/assessment, system navigation, brief interventions, ongoing treatments and therapies, care coordination, multidisciplinary supports, outreach supports within the community and/or within other services, and group programs. This may include both in-person and telehealth options. Additionally, as the primary agency, there will be an element of management of the broader perinatal, infant, and child hub that will operate from the provided service location.

Available funding for Option A - \$2,450,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years

OR

OPTION B – Pre-formed consortium to deliver all parts of the Kids Hub service

All elements as in Option A.

Available funding for Option B - \$2,450,000 (GST exclusive) per year for two years

Grant streams

Option C – Organisations may tender for one or more of the following elements:

- **C1 – On-site service delivery for children aged 0-4 years (\$875,000 per year for two years)**

This includes all elements of on-site services, targeted at children aged 0-4 years, including intake/assessment, system navigation, brief interventions/drop-in supports, ongoing treatment and therapies, care coordination, multidisciplinary supports, and group programs. This will involve an element of management of the broader 'hub'.

- **C2 – On-site service delivery for children aged 5-12 years (\$875,000 per year for two years)**

This includes all elements of on-site services, targeted at children aged 0-4 years, including intake/assessment, system navigation, brief interventions/drop-in supports, ongoing treatment and therapies, care coordination, multidisciplinary supports, and group programs. This will also involve an element of management of the broader 'hub'.

- **C3 - Specialist assessment and diagnosis of neurodevelopmental concerns (\$350,000 per year for two years)**

This element will provide specialist assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-12 years.

- **C4 – Outreach (\$350,000 per year for two years)**

Providing support that may be a combination of outreach into homes and community and outreach into other services across the ACT.

Please note: Consortium arrangements are possible for each of these service streams. In your application, please detail how you will work holistically with the other service streams.

Out of scope

Services that are out of scope for the ACT Kids Hub include the following, noting that the Kids Hub will work to complement and provide referral and pathways to these services:

- Disability support services provided through a child's NDIS plan. However, this determination should be made on an individual basis.
- Primary Health Care Services which are provided by other child and family health services.
- Services targeting the mental health of youth (12 years or older) and adults that are more appropriately provided by headspace, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), or Medicare Mental Health Adult Mental Health Centres. It is also recognised that, at times, treatment for other family members may be most appropriately provided by staff at the Kids Hub.
- Crisis support services (for example – domestic and family violence, drug and alcohol support, legal services, and housing) where these are more appropriately provided by other dedicated services.

Key performance requirements

16

- Supports offered must remain no-cost and not require a referral for access.
- Eligibility should not be based on a child having a diagnosable mental illness. Consideration should be given to emotional wellbeing, behavioural and developmental challenges, physical symptoms, mental distress, and family functioning.
- The duration of service should not be highly structured or rigidly time limited. However, consideration will need to be given to demand management, enabling timely access to support and service for all who are referred (including self-referral), while also providing short to medium episodes of care.
- The Service must offer a multidisciplinary approach, supporting the mental health, behavioural, and wellbeing needs of children and their families, carers and kin.



Key performance requirements

- If a consortium or a range of different service providers are successful in tendering for parts of the Service, they will be required to demonstrate how they will work together to reduce fragmentation and ensure as seamless a journey through the different service offerings for each child/family as possible.
- While offering appropriate medical supports, consultation with the community has been clear that a holistic approach rather than a 'medical model' is preferred and this should be supported within the service design.



To be eligible, the Respondent must:

18

- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN).
- Be registered for the purposes of GST.
- Have an account with an Australian financial institution, and be one of the following entity types:
 - A company incorporated in the ACT under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991;
 - A company limited by guarantee and incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 (Commonwealth);
 - An incorporated trustee on behalf of a trust;
 - An incorporated association;
 - A partnership;
 - A joint (consortia) application with a lead organisation;
 - A registered charity or not-for-profit organisation;
 - Publicly funded research organisation;
- Be financially viable to deliver the services over the term of the grant
- The successful Respondent is required to be compliant with ACT policy priorities, and, where applicable, Secure Local Jobs Code (SLJC) certification. Where SLJC certification is not applicable, it is highly recommended that the successful Respondent is SLJC certified or is working towards certification.

How to apply

Prospective Respondents will be required to access the grants package and submit their grant application via the SmartyGrants platform.

Strong responses will be familiar with:

- The Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub National Service Model;
- The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Bilateral Agreement (ACT Schedule); and
- The Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub ACT Consultation Report.

We encourage you to read these documents before submitting your application, to have a clear understanding of the grant context.

These documents are available on the first page of the Kids Hub grant webpage through SmartyGrants.

Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub - ACT Health Directorate

Assessment criteria – Mandatory criteria

20

- The mandatory criteria relate to grant governance and compliance.
- All respondents must answer these questions for a valid response.
- Questions relate to Board and governance structures, quality improvement, data usage and storage, risk management, insurance, legislative requirements, relevant accreditations and financial viability.

Assessment criteria – Weighted criteria

There are three sections of weighted criteria:

- Weighted criteria section 1 – Service to be delivered under the grant (Capability, Capacity, and Demonstrated Ability to deliver the service) – This section has a total weighting of 50/100
- Weighted criteria section 2 – Relevant experience – This section has a total weighting of 30/100
- Weighted criteria section 3 – Organisational capacity and resourcing – This section has a total weighting of 20/100

Assessment criteria – Non-weighted criteria

22

The non-weighted criteria relate to:

- How the Respondent will measure service outputs
- Risks and challenges that may impact the service being delivered (Risk Plan Template needs to be completed and attached with responses)
- Providing two referees who can substantiate documented organisational experience
- Completion of the Pricing Schedule Template. Please consider both direct costs (staffing, equipment, etc) and indirect costs (administration, insurance, etc). This template needs to be completed and attached with responses.

Both the Risk Plan Template and the Pricing Schedule Template are found on the Kids Hub SmartyGrants webpage.

Key points

23



- Familiarise yourself with the key documents listed in the Grant Requirements prior to writing your application (documents are available on SmartyGrants)
- Read Grant Requirements carefully
- Write to the Assessment Criteria when answering questions in your application
- Assume the Assessment Panel has no prior knowledge of your proposal, your organization or your work
- Late responses cannot be accepted – the deadline is 4pm on Tuesday 3 February 2026

Expected timeframes

Activity	Expected timeframe
Grant opportunity opens on SmartyGrants	27 November 2025
Industry Briefing	11 December 2025
Grant closes	3 February 2026
Assessment of applications	February – March 2026
Notification of Preferred and Non-Preferred Respondents	March – April 2026
Negotiations with Preferred Respondent	March – June 2026
Formal notification to unsuccessful Respondents and announcement of successful Respondent	June 2026
Earliest start date of grant activity	July 2026

Questions and FAQ

25

Please email any questions to:

MMHKidsHub@act.gov.au

The team will endeavour to respond to questions within 2 business days.

Questions and responses will also be published as part of the FAQ on the Kids Hub Smartygrants grant webpage.

Please note: The inbox will be unattended during the Christmas/New Year shut-down period. The team will be back on Monday 5 January 2026.



Thank you

We look forward to working in partnership with the successful organisation or organisations on the Medicare Mental Health Kids Hub service.

