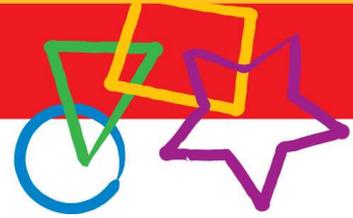


# Kindy Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grants



## Information for Applicants

Studying early childhood teaching and wondering what it's like to teach in a rural, remote and regional location? Kindergartens in rural, remote and regional locations play a very important role in developing young children's abilities and supporting their learning and need qualified early childhood teachers to lead, direct and teach approved kindergarten programs.

***There may be great job and career opportunities in regional, rural and remote Queensland.***

In 2012, the Department of Education and Training is offering *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grants* to support early childhood pre-service teachers to undertake a professional experience placement in a regional, rural or remote Queensland kindergarten service.

Participants will have exciting opportunities to broaden their skills, knowledge and professional teaching experience in a kindergarten setting, while engaging in regional, rural and remote Queensland communities.

The ***Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grants*** are available to pre-service teachers studying at Queensland Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and who are completing the third or fourth year of an early childhood undergraduate pre-service teacher education program in 2012.

Financial support is available for grant recipients who undertake a professional experience placement in a regional, rural or remote Queensland kindergarten program in either Semester 1 or 2, 2012.

### Why Teach Kindy?

Long day care and kindergarten services across Queensland need qualified early childhood teachers to lead, direct and teach approved kindergarten programs.

Completing a professional experience in an early childhood centre will provide you with a fantastic opportunity to:

- share your experience and knowledge with others;
- assist in implementing the new kindergarten curriculum;
- learn about the diverse range of current reforms and initiatives in the early childhood sector;
- form partnerships and networks across Queensland;
- experience life in a new community;

- become an active member of a rural, remote or regional community, and
- increase your employment opportunities.

### Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Grant, applicants must:

- be undertaking the third or fourth year of an undergraduate early childhood pre-service teacher education program at a Queensland HEI in 2012;
- be planning or willing to undertake a professional experience placement in a regional, rural or remote Queensland kindergarten in Semester 1 or 2, 2012;
- be achieving suitable academic results in their current tertiary studies;
- have displayed a high level of effective classroom practice in previous professional experience placements;
- hold a Blue Card from the Commission for Children, Young People and Child Guardian; and
- be an Australian or New Zealand citizen or have permanent residency status in Australia.

### Grant Support

Grant recipients will receive a range of support, including:

- a \$1000 cash payment to assist with travel, accommodation, and other related expenses;
- access to the *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Project Room* on the Learning Place (<http://education.qld.gov.au/learningplace>);
- information and additional support before and during their professional experience in a regional, rural or remote Queensland kindergarten service, and
- access to support from local communities and regional networks.

### Grant Funds

Grant recipients will receive financial assistance of \$1000 to support their professional experience placement. Centres must have an Accessibility/ Remote



Index of Australia (ARIA) rating of 3, 4 or 5.

A list of eligible centres can be accessed through the *Kindy-Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* page at the *Make a difference Teach* website [www.teach.gov.au](http://www.teach.gov.au)

Grant payments will be paid in a lump sum after confirmation of a suitable professional experience placement.

The grant funds can be used at the recipient's discretion; however it is intended that the funds will be used to assist with expenses related to their professional experience placement, such as travel and accommodation.

Scholarship recipients are encouraged to seek independent financial advice regarding taxation matters and self-education expenses. Information about the taxation on scholarships and grants is available from the ATO website:

<http://www.ato.gov.au/individuals/content.asp?doc=/content/34815.htm>

Recipients who withdraw from their pre-service teacher education program or their rural or remote professional experience placement after payment of the grant may be required to repay the department some or all of the funds.

### Additional Support

Isolated Children's Parents' Association of Australia (ICPA) is a voluntary, non-profit, political parent body dedicated to ensuring that all children in rural and remote locations have equitable access to continuing and appropriate education. This encompasses the education of children from early childhood through to tertiary. Information about support that may be available through the ICPA can be found at <http://www.icpa.com.au/branches/browse/QLD>

### Application Process

All applicants for a 2012 *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* must complete and submit a written application by the closing dates.

Written applications for a 2012 grant must include:

- completed *Grant Application Form*;
- evidence of identity (eg photocopy of driver's licence);
- copies of Academic Transcript/s for current and previous tertiary qualifications;
- copies of previous professional experience placement reports (if available);
- evidence of a positive Blue Card notice from the Commission for Children, Young People and Child Guardian; and
- written responses to the following questions:
  - 1) What do you think will be your greatest challenges as a pre-service teacher in a

regional, rural or remote kindergarten service and community? (Maximum 500 words).

- 2) Which of your skills and attributes do you believe will be of particular benefit in a regional, rural or remote kindergarten service and community? (Maximum 500 words).

The 2012 *Grant Application Form* is available from the *Make a difference. Teach* website.

Applicants should ensure that all required documents are provided by the closing dates as omissions may result in the application not being considered.

### Applications close:

4 November 2011	Professional experiences in Semester 1, 2012
30 March 2012	Professional experiences in Semester 2, 2012

### Selection Process

The department will offer grants through a merit selection basis determined by the written application. Applicants will be assessed with respect to the following criteria:

- **Achievement** - suitable level of academic achievement and effective classroom practice in previous professional experience placements (*where available*);
- **Agility** - ability to become an active member of an early childhood community in a regional, rural or remote location in Queensland; and
- **Commitment** - suitability, motivation for and commitment to teaching in regional, rural or remote Queensland.

### Grant Offers

Once the selection process is complete, successful applicants will be provided with a written notification of their successful application.

All grant offers are subject to the recipient providing confirmation of ongoing enrolment in an undergraduate early childhood pre-service teacher education program at a Queensland HEI in 2012 and confirmation of a professional experience placement in a regional, rural or remote state school.

Grant offers will be for a specific semester during the 2012 calendar year only, and cannot be deferred.

## Timelines

Key dates for the 2012 *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* program are as follows:

### Semester 1

Date	Activity
4 November 2011	Grant applications for Semester 1, 2012 close
Week commencing 19 December 2011	Grant offers made to successful Semester 1 applicants

### Semester 2

Date	Activity
30 March 2012	Grant applications for Semester 2, 2012 close
Week commencing 7 May 2012	Grant Offers made to successful Semester 2 applicants

## More Information

Further information about the *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grants* and teaching in Queensland is also available from the *Make a difference. Teach* website at [www.teach.qld.gov.au](http://www.teach.qld.gov.au)

Specific enquiries can be directed to:  
[beyondtherange@deta.qld.gov.au](mailto:beyondtherange@deta.qld.gov.au)

### Completed applications must be submitted to:

Kindy - Beyond the Range Grant  
Workforce Initiatives, Human Resources  
Department of Education and Training  
PO Box 15033  
City East QLD 4002

## Did you know?

That the Department of Education and Training offers a range of scholarships and grants to aspiring teachers?

This includes *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grants* to assist pre-service teachers to undertake a professional experience in a regional, rural and remote state school.

Visit the *Make a difference. Teach* website for more information. [www.teach.qld.gov.au](http://www.teach.qld.gov.au)

## Frequently Asked Questions

• *I have already advised the Professional Experience Office at my Institution that I want to do a regional, rural or remote professional experience placement during 2012. Can I apply for a Kindy- Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant?*

Early Childhood pre-service teachers who have already expressed an interest in undertaking a professional experience in a kindergarten in a regional, rural or remote location are encouraged to apply for the *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant*.

• *I want to apply for the Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant but I haven't yet advised the Professional Experience Office at my institution that I am interested in doing in undertaking a professional experience in a kindergarten in a regional, rural or remote location 2012. What do I need to do?*

Early childhood pre-service teachers, who have not previously expressed interest in undertaking a professional experience in a kindergarten in a regional, rural or remote location, should discuss the options available to them with their Professional Experience Office as soon as possible. You will also need to complete the *Kindy - Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* application process.

• *I've previously applied for a Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant. Am I able to apply for the Kindy – Beyond the Range Grant?*

Yes. If you have previously received a *Beyond the Range – Professional Experience Grant* to assist you to undertake a professional experience in a state school, you are still eligible to apply for a *Kindy – Beyond the Range Professional Experience Grant* to assist you to undertake a professional experience in a kindergarten in a rural, remote or regional location.

• *If my application for a Grant is not successful, is there any other financial support available to assist me to undertake a professional experience placement in a rural, remote or regional location?*

Financial assistance may also be available from other sources including your Higher Education Institution.

Further information about possible support opportunities through the Isolated Children's Parents' Association can be found at

<http://www.icpa.com.au/branches/browse/QLD>