

RESPONSE FROM THE NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (20 JULY 2022)

1. Will the NSW Department of Education's Authorised Officers conduct their breaches and non-compliance visits on these new BASC/OSHC providers during this trial?

The community and national partners that the department is engaging to run extracurricular activities outside of school hours on school sites at the nine participating schools are providing instruction in a particular activity and are not subject to the compliance and breach monitoring process under the National Quality Framework.

The department has developed a robust system to monitor compliance of these community providers with child safety and wellbeing as well as incident management protocols. This process has been developed in consultation with internal stakeholders and school communities and aligns to the department's guidelines and processes.

Furthermore, these community and national partners will have weekly contact with the pilot project team for contract management purposes and have been encouraged to partner with school principals.

2. Will the NSW Department of Education's Authorised Officers simulate quality rating assessments on these new BASC/OSHC providers during this trial?

No. This is a research pilot, therefore we will not be undertaking quality rating assessments. Any type of quality rating assessment will be undertaken during the Pilot Review (which forms part of our evaluation strategy) and will seek feedback from parents, students and school principals about their experience of programs and partners.

3. At the end of this trial, how will the NSW Department of Education assess these new BASC/OSHC providers' outcomes against the My Time Our Place Learning Framework?

As mentioned in the previous question, this is a research pilot. The outcomes of the pilot, programs and partners will be assessed against the evaluation strategy and objectives of the Expanding School Hours Program.

4. Will there be any financial differences experienced by parents who must choose between the existing BASC/OSHC providers versus the new BASC/OSHC providers?

At participating schools where there is a BASC/OSHC service in place, parents will have the *option* to sign their child(ren) up to participating in the extracurricular activities. This may be in addition to their existing enrolment in the onsite BASC/OSHC service.

5. What are the range of compensations that will be provided to existing BASC/OSHC providers should children who normally are enrolled in their services now switch to the new BASC/OSHC providers during this trial?

The department is committed to a level playing field and that is why we have adhered to the following principles:

1. Where there are schools with no BASC/OSHC service we are supporting them with extracurricular providers
2. The preferred option is to increase instructional based learning with supplemented activities in partnership with BASC/OSHC on a school site.

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3. The worst case scenario is where the current provision is not working and for the purposes of the pilot we are providing additional providers on site **(this is the exception, not the rule)**.
4. High schools are out of scope.

If a BASC/OSHC service falls into category 3 and believes they have had an impact on numbers of students enrolled as a direct result of the Pilot, please contact the Leasing and Licensing team within SINSW to discuss the matter and a suitable approach going forward.

In addition the pilot team will take a proactive approach by working with the Leasing and Licensing team to implement options like waiving licence fees for the impacted BASC/OSHC services at pilot schools for the duration of the pilot.

6. **Outside of the National Quality Framework, how will the NSW Department of Education measure the benefits of those children who participated in the trials? Will there be academic and non-academic measures of progress/success emanating from this trial on a child-level as well as a cohort-level?**

The research pilot is not subject to the National Quality Framework for reasons mentioned in answers 1, 2 and 3. The outcomes of the pilot, programs and partners (which will include indicators of academic engagement and wellbeing of students) will be assessed against the evaluation strategy and objectives of the Expanding School Hours Program.

The research pilot is not long enough, at this stage, to correlate academic attainment and wellbeing outcomes with participation in the research pilot but efforts will be made (that are suitable and defensible) to gauge student outcomes through surveys and focus groups.

7. **How will the NSW Department of Education assess workplace participation improvements of parents?**

As mentioned in question 6 the department will explore this through surveys and focus groups of parents who have volunteered to participate in the research pilot.

8. **Other than the BASC Council that was mentioned during today's discussion, how transparent will the results of the trial be to the broader early childhood education and care sector?**

The department is planning to publish case studies from the pilot. This will be available to the broader early childhood education and care sector.