

Supporting the Ongoing Viability of Out of School Care and Recreation Services

As part of Budget 20 we are committed to improving parents' employment outcomes and skills development through providing ongoing funding to Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) providers.

Budget 2020

Access to out of school care allows parents to gain and maintain meaningful employment or do further education and training and supports children's wellbeing and education.

The Government is investing \$9.6 million over four years to provide ongoing funding to keep OSCAR services viable, allowing parents to better engage in employment, training and education.

- The extra funding will benefit over 51,000 children currently supported by over 500 OSCAR providers.
- The \$2.4 million a year funding increase will be divided between providing:
 - an overall lift in OSCAR grant funding rates, and
 - additional support to providers operating in low socio-economic areas.
- This will help reduce a provider's need to raise fees or reduce services, lowering cost and other barriers for parents accessing OSCAR services. This means parents will be in a better position to maintain employment, re-enter the workforce, and gain further skills through education and training.
- Parents and children experiencing economic hardship are expected to benefit most from this funding as they would likely be the most impacted by fee increases and service closures.
- The funding increase supports New Zealand communities to keep people in employment and free up parents who wish to upskill through education and training. Additionally, removing childcare cost barriers gives businesses and employers better access to the skilled people they need.
- OSCAR services also play a role in bringing families and communities together, supporting children to have a fun and safe place to learn and play.

Costs (operating) \$m

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	9.60