

New OSCAR Programmes - Feasibility Process What to Ask Before You Go Ahead

PROGRAMME FACILITIES

- **Is our facility suitable, safe and up to standard?**
- **How will children get there?**

- If a facility has been determined for the new programme, does it meet minimum safety requirements? If you have decided to attain MSD OSCAR Accreditation, then you will need to ensure the facilities are up to current building code requirements, as well as being generally safe, clean and with adequate space, toilets, phone access etc.

NOTE: MSD OSCAR Accreditation for a private dwelling where people are living is not possible under current MSD policies.

- Is the facility available for a suitable period of time and on a daily basis? Is there a good chance that the programme can stay in the facility longer-term?
- For before/after school services, is the programme located conveniently for children to get to/from school – will transport be needed?

DEMAND FOR A NEW PROGRAMME

- **What's already available and why will families use a new service?**

- Where are the current OSCAR providers in the area – hours, price, numbers of children, capacity (i.e. waiting lists?) To locate local providers use the Family Services Directory <https://www.familyservices.govt.nz/directory/>
- Is there a point of difference between the new programme and current providers in the same community e.g. hours, fees, programme content, different target group such as older children?
- What is the likely demand for the new programme? Consider numbers enrolled at local schools, feedback from child care centres, kindergartens etc. It may be possible to survey a school community, or canvas parents through local organisations like pools, libraries, doctors, sports clubs, churches, large employers etc.
- How might the current provision of services effect demand for a new service? Is a new service really needed?

PROGRAMME ESTABLISHMENT

- **How will we keep going for the first 6 months?**

- What is the budget for the first 6-months? How will the programme stay solvent? What are initial projections for the numbers attending and conservative income estimates? How does this compare with staffing and other weekly operational costs?
- What will be done to promote the programme in order to meet enrolment projections?
- What is the time-line for gaining MSD OSCAR Accreditation – especially if parents need to access the OSCAR Fee Subsidy?

