



# EDUCATION AND CARE

## ECU NEWSLETTER

10 May 2023

### Changes to Assessment and Rating from 1 May 2023

Throughout the year, the ECU has shared information about national changes to Assessment and Rating (A&R) coming into effect in Tasmania in 2023.

#### *Reduced Notice Periods*

From 1 May 2023, the ECU implemented reduced notice periods of 1 – 5 days for A&R visits. The adjusted notice period promotes A&R as an ongoing process that involves the observation and assessment of typical service practice.

To support services, we have developed a range of resources which are available on the [ECU website](#).

- [ECU Information Sheet - changes in A&R](#)
- [ECU Information Sheet - Assessment and Rating Visits 2023](#)
- [ECU FAQs - Assessment and Rating 2023](#)
- [ECU Documentation Guide and Curriculum Overview for CBC Services 2023](#)
- [ECU A&R Optional Reflective Questions for CBC Services 2023](#)

You may also find these ACECQA resources helpful:

- [ACECQA information sheet](#)
- [Guide to the National Quality Framework](#)

#### *QIP request and resources*

The ECU had requested that all services submit their current QIP via NQAITS by 1 May.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their QIPs so far. Uploading your QIP has provided Authorised Officers with access to information about your service's self-assessment, goals and progress when preparing for A&R and engagement visits.

You may upload your service's QIP again at any time. The ECU will also send out reminders several times a year for services to upload their updated QIPs.

If you haven't yet uploaded your QIP, we have developed some resources to support you, including:

- [an instructional video \(Youtube.com\)](#)
- [ECU Tip Sheet - Submitting your QIP through the NQAITS portal](#)
- [ECU Information Sheet - Submitting your QIP](#)

### Nominated Supervisors

The role of the nominated supervisor is an important one in supporting the delivery of an education and care service. A nominated supervisor, by the nature of the role, has responsibilities regarding the oversight of the services quality, compliance requirements and daily operations.

While a nominated supervisor is not required to be at the education and care service premise at all times, like an approved provider their legislated responsibilities exist regardless of if they are physically present at a service or not. The development and monitoring of systems and processes to support the delivery of a quality service is an important aspect of the role.

In mid-2022 through to early-2023, the ECU funded a nominated supervisor training program to nominated supervisors who had oversight of services rated as Working Towards National Quality Standard at the commencement of the program. The focus of the

program was on building leadership capacity and mentoring to equip participants in their role as nominated supervisor with the skills to mentor and guide staff. The training received positive feedback from participants.

Another nominated supervisor training program is being considered with participation expected to be determined through an Expression of Interest opportunity later in 2023. Information regarding future training opportunities will be provided at a future date.

Information on the ECU's monitoring of nominated supervisors can be found in the [ECU Information Sheet – Nominated Supervisors](#).

### NQF service annual fees – due 1 July 2023

The *Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010* (National Law) requires providers to pay an annual fee for each service approval held, including those services that are suspended.

The invoice for your service approval will be sent to you by via email in the last week of May.

The fee is due on or before 1 July 2023.

Please note failure to pay by 1 July may result in late fees being applied in accordance with regulation 233 of the *Education and Care Services National Regulations* (National Regulations).

### Community Child Care Fund grants for new services in areas of limited supply

The Australian Government is inviting Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved ECEC providers to apply for a new grant opportunity.

Grants are available to establish new Centre Based Day Care (CBDC) and Family Day Care (FDC) services:

- In areas experiencing disadvantage in regional and remote areas.
- In areas where there are no or limited similar services.

To be eligible for this grant, you must:

- Be an approved provider under Family Assistance Law (FAL).
- Be seeking to operate a new CBDC or FDC service.
- Plan to establish the service in an [identified priority area](#).

Applications will close 1 June 2023.

Learn more about the grant on the [Australian Government Department of Education website](#).

Apply on the [Community Grants Hub website](#).

### Working Together – Request for Tender for 2024 now open

The Department *for* Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) has opened a Request for Tender (RFT) process seeking ECEC services to support the next phase of the *Working Together – supporting early learning* initiative, which supports opportunities for eligible children to participate in free, quality early learning through partner ECEC services in the year before Kindergarten.

Information regarding a service's eligibility, the evaluation criteria and information on the Working Together program structure and model can be found on the [Tasmanian Government Tenders website](#).

Eligible CBDC ECEC services are invited to submit their RFT by 24 May 2023.

If you have any questions, please contact the Departmental Contact Officer – Dave Whittle at [dave.whittle@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:dave.whittle@decyp.tas.gov.au) or on 0414 245 756.

### ECU and WT Scholarship Expression of Interest – ECA Reconciliation Symposium

The ECU and the *Working Together – supporting early learning* program are offering four scholarships for registration at the [2023 ECA Reconciliation Symposium](#) for people currently working in the early childhood education and care sector in Tasmania. Two of these tickets will be available as a preference to people from Working Together partner services, with

two tickets open generally to respondents from the Tasmanian sector.

The ECA Reconciliation Symposium will convene in nipaluna, lutruwita (Hobart, Tasmania) on 9 and 10 June 2023. Please visit the [ECA Reconciliation Symposium](#) for details, including information about the [Program – ECA Reconciliation Symposium](#) and [Speakers – ECA Reconciliation Symposium](#).

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship to attend, please complete the [ECU Scholarship Expression of Interest - ECA Reconciliation Symposium](#) by 11.55pm on Sunday 14 May.

If you have any questions, please email [grants.ecu@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants.ecu@decyp.tas.gov.au) or phone 03 6165 5425.

### Professional development opportunities for ECEC workforce

The Australian Government has announced new funding measures to support the ECEC workforce.

These measures are designed to:

- Strengthen skills and professional experience.
- Improve retention.
- Build supply.
- Increase capacity.

The [professional development subsidy](#) will help qualified staff complete up to two days in training to enhance mandatory and highly-recommended skills.

The [paid practicum subsidy](#) will help services to pay educators in training to complete their degrees or postgraduate studies with work placements.

The [practicum exchange](#) will help early childhood teachers in training to complete a professional exchange program to gain broader experience prior to qualification.

Further information about the new measures, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, can be found on the [Australian Government Department of Education website](#).

### Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Childcare Inquiry 2023

The ACCC has launched a survey for parents and guardians as part of gathering information for the Childcare inquiry.

The ACCC wants to hear from parents and guardians of children aged 0 – 13 years and parents and guardians of children with disability aged 0 – 18 years to understand their preferences when considering and accessing childcare, the affordability of childcare, and whether there are barriers to accessing the right types of childcare.

The ECU encourages services and providers to consider sharing the [Parents and Guardians Survey - Childcare Inquiry](#) link within their network to encourage families to respond.

The survey is open until 31 May 2023 and can be completed anonymously.

More information about the inquiry can be found on the [ACCC Childcare Inquiry website](#).

#### Contact details

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