EARLY LEARNING FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS

COMMUNIQUE – APRIL 2023

Early Learning Workshops across Tasmania complete

Throughout March and April Suzanne Purdon and Tim Denby from the Department explored and gathered feedback from families, services and community members from workshops across Tasmania. The workshops built understanding of current and future early learning needs in communities and discussed the following principles:

1. Early learning for 3-year-olds will be:
    a) quality, age-appropriate and play-based
    b) delivered by a qualified workforce
    c) accessible to all 3-year-olds for up to 15 hours distributed over a week
    d) place-based, flexible, innovative and meet local needs
    e) informed by evidence and research.
2. Children and their wellbeing are central to decision making.
3. Cost will not be a barrier to participation.
4. Implementation will occur through co-design with families, communities and service providers.

This involved 32 workshops at 25 towns and cities across the South, North, Northwest, East and West and included 4 online sessions. The workshops were attended by over 230 people including parents, grandparents, family members, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services and a mix of people who deliver early years services including schools and other key stakeholders. A full list of workshops can be found here.

Input has varied across the workshops with some common themes including:

- Early Learning provision needs to be holistic and inclusive with flexible access to suit needs of child and family.
- Communities want early learning through a 'village' approach including a mix of more ECEC and CFLC 'like' services where early years services supports are provided locally.
- Aboriginal Cultural practices are imbedded into service delivery and design.

- Those people providing the service are to have skills, attributes, and knowledge to provide quality early learning opportunities for every child and inclusive of the family and community.
- Participants support place-based, flexible, local provision and solutions.
- Support with transport is key to access and regular attendance.
- Staff and workforce challenges are common to most communities including concerns about wages, workload, training and attracting/retaining quality staff.

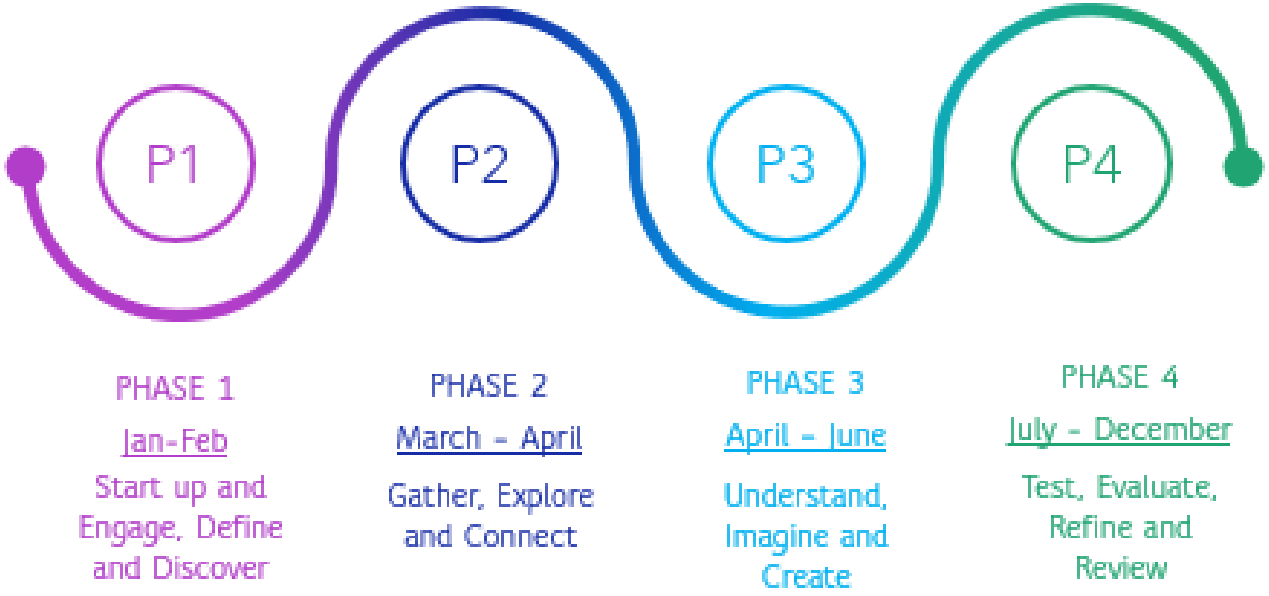
We are now collating, summarising and analysing feedback from the workshops. We will then seek input and feedback from the Co-Design Planning Group.

Have your say - QR code and link to access the survey

We know not everyone could attend a workshop so we encourage parents, community members and services to complete a survey to tell us about early learning for 3-year-olds. Scan the QR code on the poster below or click on this link to access the survey. Also, feel free to share the survey and/or poster with interested parents, services or community groups. The survey closes 15 May 2023.

Where are we in the Co-Design process?

We are now about to finish **Phase 2**. This phase consisted of connecting with local communities and gathering their input to understand and explore issues, challenges and opportunities. Phase 2 is integral to the co-design process to hear and learn firsthand from the lived experience of people in their communities.



We have now commenced **Phase 3** where we are making sense of what we have heard so far and what we have learnt from families, services and community members. This will inform the development and planning of what early learning for three-year-olds can be in each community.

Have a query?

We want to hear your questions. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact spp.admin@decyp.tas.gov.au