



EDUCATION AND CARE

ECU NEWSLETTER

Issue 2 2024 – published 8 May 2024

Have you signed up for the new NQA ITS site?



How you login to the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA ITS) changed due to a system upgrade on 2 April 2024. If you haven't already signed up to the new system, please take urgent steps to do so.

All users needed to sign up for an account to access the new NQA ITS site. For users of the old site, you must re-register as your old login details are no longer valid.

It is critical that all users register promptly to ensure you can submit applications and notifications and receive vital information including annual invoices (issued in late May). Failure to register means you may will not receive communications and invoices. If invoices aren't received and paid, that may result in late fees.

If you have previously held an NQA ITS account, you will need to reconnect your Provider to your account. You'll also need to invite any additional users who may need access to your Provider and Services.

Multi Factor Authentication (MFA) has been enabled for registering and logging in to ensure secure access to the system.

ACECQA's [Getting Started](#)¹ webpage links to detailed instructions on how to register, how to link your provider accounts and how to add new users. Further guidance materials and help articles can be found in the [NQA ITS System Help Centre](#)².

AERO has made additions to the Early Learning Trajectories resource suite

The Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) has released two more sets of resources as part of the [Early Childhood Learning Trajectories suite](#)³. These resources support educators, teachers and service leaders in the early childhood education and care sector.

The resources align to the Principles of the Early Years Learning Framework Version 2.0 (EYLF V2) and to the National Quality Standard.

The eight [Assessment for children's learning practice resources](#)⁴ support assessment for children's learning. They have a focus on cultural responsiveness and critical reflexivity.

The eight [Play-based learning and intentionality resources](#)⁵ focus on the importance of intentionality in play-based learning in quality, evidence-based ECEC practice with cultural responsiveness at its heart.

2024 National Workforce Census

The [Early Childhood Education and Care National Workforce Census](#)⁶ is a national collection about the early childhood education and care sector workforce. It helps the Australian Government develop and measure policies and programs for the early childhood education and care sector.

It is mandatory for all Child Care Subsidy approved providers and services to complete the census.

Find out more about how to prepare for and complete the census on the [Social Research Centre's website](#)⁷.

If you have any questions at any stage of the process, please call the National Workforce Census Helpline on 1 800 639 098 or email nwc@srcentre.com.au.

Get involved in *Move Well Eat Well's* program Refresh!



The Department of Health invites you to play a part in reimagining how [Move Well Eat Well](#)⁸ (MWEW) can best support nutrition and physical activity in Tasmanian early childhood services and primary schools.

Face-to-face conversations (April/May)

- Conversations will be conducted by two MWEW team members in-person or online for 30-45 minutes.
- Up to four staff are welcome to attend.
- All participating services will receive a \$50 Modern Teaching Aids voucher.
- [Express your interest in the face-to-face conversations](#)⁹.

Collaborative workshops

- Workshops are 90 minutes long with up to 30 people from primary school and early childhood services.
- Up to two staff are welcome to attend.
- Both face-to-face and online workshops are available.
- Part-day relief payment is available on request.

Workshop details:

- South: Wednesday 22 May 9.30am-11.00am, Glenorchy Library, Glenorchy – [register for South workshop](#)¹⁰.
- North-West: Wednesday 29 May 9.30am-11.00am, Point Function Room, Burnie – [register for North-West workshop](#)¹¹.
- North: Thursday 30 May 9.30am-11.00am, Launceston Conference Centre, Launceston – [register for North workshop](#)¹².
- Online: Wednesday 5 June 3.30pm-5.00pm via Microsoft Teams – [register for the online workshop](#)¹³.

You can learn more about the program Refresh and other ways you can be involved on the [Move Well Eat Well website](#)¹⁴.

2024 AEDC data collection is happening now

The [Australian Early Development Census \(AEDC\)](#)¹⁵ is Australia's only national census of children in their early years. The Australian Government has endorsed the AEDC as a national progress measure of early childhood development.

Every three years, teachers complete an instrument (similar to a questionnaire) for each child in their first year of full-time school.

The AEDC is a significant resource for government, local area services, communities, researchers, ECEC providers and schools. AEDC data helps to:

- understand the factors affecting children's mental health, development and wellbeing.
- support policy and planning.
- target resources and services.
- track progress of policies and initiatives.

The AEDC is embedded in policy and frameworks at national, state and local government levels.

Educators may find the [AEDC Resources for Early Childhood Sector](#)¹⁶ useful for curriculum planning to ensure programs are responsive to the identified needs of children.

For more information about the AEDC, visit the [Department for Education Children and Young People \(DECYP\) AEDC webpage](#)¹⁷ or the [AEDC website](#)¹⁸.



Public Health Services reminder – pertussis (whooping cough) and influenza (flu)

With winter approaching, Public Health Services (PHS) have issued a reminder to providers and services to ensure policies regarding the management of staff and children with respiratory symptoms are up to date.

These policies should support staff to:

- stay at home when they have symptoms of a new respiratory illness.
- remain at home until the acute symptoms have resolved.
- seek care from a health care provider if symptoms are severe or persist.

Parents should be reminded to:

- keep children at home while they have symptoms.
- seek care from a health care provider if symptoms are severe or persist.

Whooping cough

Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory infection which affects people of all ages. It is most dangerous for babies under 6 months of age.

A recent increase in whooping cough notifications nationally and in Tasmania has sparked concerns this may indicate the start of an epidemic year.

Whooping cough vaccine is part of the National Immunisation Program and is free for babies, young children and pregnant women. Vaccination is also recommended (but not free) every 10 years for those working in close contact with very young babies.

Educators are encouraged to make sure they are up to date with whooping cough boosters and be alert to cases within their service. PHS can provide information and support as needed. Additional information can be found in the [whooping cough factsheet](#)¹⁹ and [immunisation handbook- whooping cough](#)²⁰.

Flu

Flu can be serious for young children, including those who are usually healthy.

An annual vaccine is strongly recommended for those most at risk of severe complications and is free under the National Immunisation Program for:

- all children aged six months to five years of age.
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged six months and over.
- pregnant women.
- people with eligible medical conditions aged six months and older.
- all people aged 65 years and over.

Find out more about flu on [the Department of Health Website](#)²¹.

Early Learning for Three Year Olds initiative (EL3) Roundtable

DECYP invites all Tasmanian ECEC Providers to attend the second ECEC Roundtable to explore and discuss implementation of the Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) Initiative on Monday, 24 June 2024 from 10.30am to 1.30pm at the Campbell Town Recreation Ground Complex – Function Room.

Information about the EL3 initiative can be found on the [Early Learning for Three Year Olds initiative](#)²² pages on the DECYP website.

Please share the EL3 Roundtable invitation. A flyer with details is attached. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP with numbers attending by 19 June 2024 via email to: el3@decyp.tas.gov.au

View previous ECU Newsletters

You can access the [archive of previous ECU Newsletters](#)²³ on the ECU website.

Contact details:

Education and Care Unit
Department for Education, Children and Young People
GPO Box 169
HOBART Tasmania 7001
Email: ecu.comment@decyp.tas.gov.au



EARLY LEARNING FOR THREE YEAR OLDS (EL3)

The Department for Education, Children and Young People

INVITES

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE (ECEC) PROVIDERS

~ To attend the second Statewide Roundtable to explore and discuss implementation of the initiative ~

Monday 24 June 2024 | 10.30am – 1.30pm | In-Person

Venue

Campbell Town Recreation Ground Complex
57 High St, Campbell Town, TAS

RSVP via email to
el3@decyp.tas.gov.au

RSVP online with numbers attending by 19 June 2024:

el3@decyp.tas.gov.au

Links

¹ Important information about the new NQA ITS | ACECQA - <https://acecqa.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portal/10/article/82706435>

² National Quality Agenda IT System Help Centre | ACECQA - <https://acecqa.atlassian.net/servicedesk/customer/portals>

³ Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) | Australian Education Research Organisation - <https://www.edresearch.edu.au/setting/early-childhood-education-care-ecec>

⁴ Introduction: Assessment for children's learning | Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) - <https://www.edresearch.edu.au/guides-resources/practice-resources/introduction-afcl>

⁵ Introduction: Play-based learning and intentionality | Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) - <https://www.edresearch.edu.au/guides-resources/practice-resources/introduction-pblai>

⁶ National Workforce Census | Australian Government Department of Education - <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/early-childhood-data-and-reports/national-workforce-census>

⁷ National Workforce Census | Social Research Centre - <https://srcentre.com.au/project/national-workforce-census/>

⁸ Move Well Eat Well | Tasmanian Department of Health - https://www.movewelleatwell.tas.gov.au/move_well_eat_well_refresh_updates

⁹ Expression of Interest: Move Well Eat Well Consultations | SurveyMonkey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWEWEOIConsultations>

¹⁰ Move Well Eat Well Consultation – South | humantix - <https://events.humantix.com/move-well-eat-well-refresh-collaborative-workshop>

¹¹ Move Well Eat Well Consultation – North-West | humantix - <https://events.humantix.com/move-well-eat-well-refresh-collaborative-workshop-north-west>

¹² Move Well Consultation – North | humantix - <https://events.humantix.com/move-well-eat-well-refresh-collaborative-workshop-north>

¹³ Move Well Eat Well Consultation – Online | humantix - <https://events.humantix.com/move-well-eat-well-refresh-collaborative-online-workshop>

¹⁴ Move Well Eat Well | Tasmanian Department of Health - https://www.movewelleatwell.tas.gov.au/move_well_eat_well_refresh_updates

¹⁵ Australian Early Development Census - <https://www.aedc.gov.au/>

¹⁶ Resources for Early Childhood Sector | AEDC - <https://www.aedc.gov.au/resources/resources-for-early-childhood-sector>

¹⁷ Australian Early Development Census | Department for Education, Children and Young People - <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/policies-legislation-data/data-and-statistics/australian-early-development-census-aedc/>

¹⁸ Australian Early Development Census - <https://www.aedc.gov.au/>

¹⁹ Whooping Cough (Pertussis) fact sheet | Tasmanian Department of Health - <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/publications/whooping-cough-pertussis-fact-sheet#what-is-whooping-cough>

²⁰ Pertussis (whooping cough) | The Australian Immunisation Handbook (health.gov.au) - <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/pertussis-whooping-cough>

²¹ Flu (Influenza) | Tasmanian Department of Health - <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/health-topics/flu-influenza>

²² Early Learning for Three Year Olds initiative | Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) - <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/>

²³ Newsletters Archive | ECU - <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/news/newsletters-archive/>