



# EDUCATION AND CARE

## ECU NEWSLETTER

9 November 2022

### GENERAL TOPICS

#### National Quality Framework (NQF) eLearning Modules

ACECQA has released an eLearning program for new educators entering the early childhood education and care sector. These modules can also be used by current educators to support your understanding of your role within the sector.

The program consists of a series of four eLearning modules which each cover a different aspect of the NQF:

- NQF Induction 1: Introduction to the children's education and care sector
- NQF Induction 2: Overview of the NQF
- NQF Induction 3: Law and Regulations
- NQF Induction 4: National Quality Standard

You can find the eLearning modules on the [ACECOA website](#)

#### Early Childhood Australia (ECA) 2022 National Conference

The ECA 2022 National Conference was held in Canberra from 5-8 October with the theme of *Passion to Power: Our Future Profession*. The conference reflected on the past and considered contemporary challenges and initiatives to ensure a quality education and care workforce.

The ECU was delighted to promote participation and reduce barriers for educators by sponsoring two in-

person scholarships for Tasmanian educators to attend the conference.

Our scholarship winners Kristy Gilroy and Sarah Bowen (pictured) left the conference feeling a sense of connection with fellow educators, and inspired to take their learnings and reflections away to imbed within their programs.



#### ECU Minor Infrastructure Grants Round 2022-2023 is open

The ECU invites eligible education and care services and licensed child care services to apply for funding through the ECU Minor Infrastructure Grants Round 2022-2023.

The objective of the capital grants program is to support Tasmanian education and care services to provide safe, inclusive, high-quality education and care to children, particularly those disadvantaged by geographic or socio-economic circumstances.

This round of grant funding will close on Thursday, 1 December 2022.

Applications must be made using [SmartyGrants](#), an online grants management system.

For more information on the eligibility criteria or application process visit the [Minor Infrastructure Grants news post](#) on the ECU website.

If you have any questions please contact the ECU Grants Officer on (03) 6165 5437 or at [grants.ECU@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants.ECU@decyp.tas.gov.au).

## Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Grants Round 2022 is open

AEDC Grants provide funding to assist organisations working in the early years to develop new programs or extend present programs.

Programs are to acknowledge the strengths, but meet the needs, of children with 'developmental vulnerability' within the local community.

Successful programs will assist in raising awareness of the AEDC among early years' stakeholders to reduce vulnerability and increase the utilisation of AEDC results in supporting children's learning and development.

Applications close Friday, 18 November 2022.

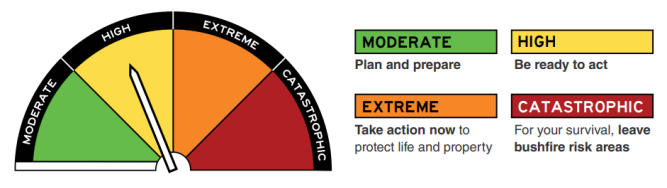
Read the [Tasmanian AEDC grant guidelines \(PDF, 348KB\)](#) and apply using [SmartyGrants](#).

If you have questions relating to the program contact [aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au](mailto:aedc@decyp.tas.gov.au) or for assistance with the application process [grants@dpac.tas.gov.au](mailto:grants@dpac.tas.gov.au).

## The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

A new nationally consistent approach to rating fire danger in Australia was introduced in September 2022. The AFDRS provides information on the level of danger that exists should a fire start and take hold. This system does not offer any information on the chance of a fire starting. Once a fire does start, [The Australian Warning System](#) takes over to provide warnings about threat levels.

### The new Australian Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) levels are:



In addition to the 4 ratings above, there is a white No Rating which will be used to indicate days of minimal fire danger. The simplified messages provided below each rating indicate the actions people should take when a given rating is made to help protect themselves and others.

Get to know the AFDRS and view forecasts on the [Tasmania Fire Service \(TFS\) website](#). The fire danger rating summary table offers an overview of forecast ratings in Tasmania for the next four days. The fire danger rating maps provide a more detailed view of the same rating information found in the summary table, just at a finer scale.

As the weather starts to warm up, now is a good time to ensure that you are prepared for the summer ahead. Things to do include:

- Determine the weather district(s) that your facilities, or areas you may be planning to visit, are in. This [Bureau of Meteorology map](#) shows the forecast areas.
- If your facility has had a bushfire risk assessment done, know the category that was provided as this will guide pre-emptive actions on days of Extreme or Catastrophic fire danger.
- Review your Emergency Management or Bushfire Plan.
- Keep up to date with fire danger forecasts.

Any enquires regarding the AFDRS can be forwarded to the TFS through [AFDRS@fire.tas.gov.au](mailto:AFDRS@fire.tas.gov.au).

## COVID-19 TOPICS

### COVID-19 Isolation Rule Changes

From 14 October 2022 individuals who have COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to stay at home while they remain unwell, but it will no longer be mandated for them to remain in isolation for 5 days.

It is important that services continue to practice behaviours that help minimise the spread of COVID-19 and protect those who are at risk from severe illness.

Public Health has updated the factsheet [Best Practice in Early Childhood Education and Care Services \(PDF, 77KB\)](#) to provide guidance to services.

Services are encouraged to perform their own risk assessments and to update policies and procedures to manage children, parents and staff who have tested positive to COVID-19 or are close contacts of someone who has COVID-19. The ECU encourages services to consider including influenza in their planning.

### Where you can find more information

Our [Information for living with and managing COVID-19 in ECEC settings](#) contains guidance and information on responding to COVID-19 related matters.

The [FAQs on the ECU website](#) are frequently updated with the latest information.

Comprehensive information and important community updates can be found on the [Coronavirus website](#).

The ECU will continue to share relevant information from Public Health to the sector without providing health advice.

#### Contact details

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