

# EDUCATION AND CARE

## ECU NEWSLETTER

5 October 2022

### GENERAL TOPICS

The Department for Education, Children and Young People - DECYP

From 1 October 2022, the Department of Education will merge with some services from the Department of Communities Tasmania to establish the **Department for Education, Children and Young People** and will use the abbreviation 'DECYP' (pronounced 'dee-sip').

There will be no change to the ECU's role and service delivery as the regulatory body for the ECEC sector. Follow [this link](#) if you would like more information to understand our department's change of name and ongoing updates about our organisational structure and rebranding.

### Notice for pending Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) 2023 service approvals

The ECU recommends all applications for service approvals for new OSHC services wishing to commence operations at the start of 2023 to be submitted through the NQAITS by November 2022.

Historically, the ECU has received a large number of applications at the end of the year with services intending to commence operations the following year. Submitting your application by November 2022 will allow the ECU adequate time to consider the application prior to proposed commencement.

OSHC services intending to use a location belonging to the Department for Education, Children and Young People are required to undergo a tender process. The Strong Partnerships Co-Location [policy](#) estimates a four month period for this process to be conducted. Refer to the [Strong Partnerships: Co-location arrangements](#) link for more information.

### Australian Warning System (AWS) - flooding

Since 1 September 2022, the AWS has been updated to improve flood warning. The [AWS](#) is a national standard implemented by the Tasmanian State Emergency Service to provide emergency warnings particularly in relation to flood and bushfire emergencies on the [TasALERT](#) website.

Information about the three warning levels in relation to different hazards can be found [here](#). Review your emergency management and policy documents to update references to flood emergency ratings.

## National Workforce Strategy: *Shaping Our Future*

The [2022-2031 National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy](#) (Workforce Strategy) was released in October 2021 and is available on [ACECQA's website](#). The objective of the Workforce Strategy is to support workforce recruitment and retention in the ECEC sector.

The [Implementation Plan](#) progresses objectives of the Workforce Strategy and develop long-term partnerships between government, the ECEC sector and key stakeholders. Several Tasmanian initiatives from our [Early Years & School Age Care Workforce Strategy 2021 & Beyond](#) are also included.

## Story and Rhyme Training for educators and families

The Story and Rhyme Training aims to encourage and increase understanding of how storytelling and rhymes help children throughout their learning journey, particularly in their first 1000 days. The training sessions aim to share methods at telling stories using props.

Separate Story and Rhyme sessions for educators will be conducted on 11 October. Each session is limited to 15 vacancies. Although booking close on 3 October 2022, expressions of interest are actively noted on the waitlist to organise future sessions.

Learn more about the course in this [flyer](#). The workshop will be conducted at Goodstart Blackmans Bay, 13 Opal Drive, Blackmans Bay TAS 7052.

Contact [blb@goodstart.org.au](mailto:blb@goodstart.org.au) or 6229 1411 to register your interest.

## Free Parent Education

This online summit from 7-9 October 2022 is a three-day session for parents of young children. The [summit](#)

covers a wide range of topics concerning anger management, bullying, financial sense, dieting, etc.

You may acquire a free ticket to the online summit [here](#).

## COVID-19 TOPICS

### COVID-19 support extended to June 2023

The Australian Government will extend the following COVID-19 measures for the ECEC sector until 30 June 2023:

#### *Absences*

Families are eligible for at least 52 absences in the financial year with an option to request for more. These have been extended for enrolments that start or end between 1 December 2021 and 30 June 2023. Visit this AGDoE [link](#) for further information

#### *Gap fees*

Until 30 June 2023, you can waive the gap fee and continue to receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS), visit the [link](#).

#### Where you can find more information:

Services are advised to contact the Public Health Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) to obtain service-specific COVID-19 advice. The CNC can be reached via email at [covid.response@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:covid.response@health.tas.gov.au) or on mobile at 0467 960 114.

The ECU will continue to share relevant information from Public Health to the sector without providing health advice. The CNC should only be contacted by services. The general Public Health Hotline remains available to others outside the sector.

#### Contact details

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