

EDUCATION AND CARE

ECU NEWSLETTER

8 June 2022

GENERAL TOPICS

Emergency and evacuation

Regulation 97 of the National Regulations regarding emergency and evacuation policies are some of the frequently non-met requirements.

Services should always be prepared to respond to emergencies and incidents. Preparedness involves the development, regular rehearsals, reviewing and updating, your emergency and evacuation policies and procedures.

Refer to the ECU's [Information Sheet on Reg-97- Emergency and Evacuation Procedures](#). This article by the Queensland Government also provides simple guidance to be [emergency and evacuation ready](#) in three easy steps.

Tasmanian weather warning – snow and cold - weather outbreak

The Australian Government of Meteorology has announced a week-long period of low temperature with low-level snow and strong winds beginning from 7 June 2022.

It is expected that roads may be impacted by snow and strong winds. An increased vigilance should be given during this period of elevated risk. Services may monitor the [Tasmania Weather and Warnings website](#) or contact them at 6221 2024 for further information.

Gross motor skills – 0-4 years

The ECU recently sent out educational cards promoting gross motor skills particularly aimed at children aged 0-4 years.

Our [YouTube playlist](#) on Gross Motor Skills will help illustrate some of the activities recommended in the educational cards.

2019 NQF Review – Decision Regulation Impact Statement (DRIS)

ACECQA has announced that the DRIS will be published by 12pm on 8 June 2022 and can be accessed through the [2019 NQF Review website](#).

The 2019 NQF Review assesses whether objectives of the NQF are being met, key issues facing the NQF and makes proposed improvements to the NQF system.

The purpose of these NQF reviews ensure the NQF remains current and continues to lift quality of practice in the education and care sector.

The DRIS summarises the issues, options considered by governments, recommended changes to practice and recommended changes to the National Law and Regulations following public consultation.

2019 NQF Review – Communications Toolkit

Shortly after release of the DRIS, ACECQA will also send a Communications Toolkit by email to the education and care sector. This will consist of a draft letter to families and social media links to assist services to communicate the latest 2019 NQF Review to the public.

ECU Stakeholder Reference Group Communique

The latest communique has been uploaded on our ECU website and can be accessed at [Stakeholder Reference Group Communiques](#).

Please note item 3 regarding the COVID-19 notification process. While a correct record of information given at the meeting, this information has been updated and members should review the latest information on the ECU FAQs for providers regarding - [what must a service do if staff/children who were at their facility \(including within the last 48 hours\) test positive](#).

COVID-19 TOPICS

Direct Contacts for Public Health

The Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (Public Health) has made available a Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) to provide service specific COVID-19 advice to ECEC services. Any advice will be provided on a case-by-case basis.

The CNC can be reached via email at covid.response@health.tas.gov.au or on mobile phone at **0467 960 114**. The emails and phone lines will be monitored at the following times: 8am to 8pm on weekdays and 8am to 5pm on weekends. After 5pm, the CNC mobile will be monitored by an on-call CNC.

These contact details provided by Public Health should only be used by services. The general Public Health Hotline remains available to others outside the sector.

Community Clinics

Under the Tasmanian Government's 2022 Winter Strategy, free flu vaccination clinics are open to all eligible Tasmanians. Locations of vaccination clinics can be found [here](#). Vaccination clinics also provide COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters to anyone aged 5 years and older. You are encouraged to make a booking by phone (1800 671 738) or an [online booking](#) prior to a visit.

Vaccination in ECEC settings

Services are reminded that the Public Health Vaccination requirements in relation to Early Childhood Facilities remains in place.

However, individuals may be exempt from this requirement if they meet the criteria referred to under item (d)-(e) under the Public Health Direction for [Vaccination requirements](#) in relation to Early Childhood Facilities

Where you can find more information:

Our [Resources for living with and managing COVID-19 in ECEC services](#) contains guidance and information on responding to COVID-19 related matters as we move towards living with COVID-19.

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

Contact details

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