



Stakeholder Reference Group

Communique 27 – June 2024

ECU SRG membership:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Vacant
Australian Childcare Alliance	Tim Short
Catholic Education Tasmania	Natasha Williams
Centre based care - long day care	Chris Symons
Centre based care - OSHC	Tamieka Archer
Local Government provider representative	Kate Whitbread
Early Childhood Australia, Tasmania Branch	Annette Barwick
Early Childhood Educators of Tasmania	Sandra Mazengarb
Family Day Care Council Tasmania	Angela Stanley-Gasparin
Independent Schools Tasmania	Mark Seager
Out of Scope services	Tracey Roberts
United Workers Union	Alicia Smith
Parents & Families	Vacant

The ECU SRG met 27 June 2024. The information below reflects the discussion and outcomes from the meeting.

For information on the Education and Care Stakeholder Reference Group (ECU SRG) and the purpose behind our quarterly meetings, please see the [Terms of Reference](#)¹ on the [ECU website](#)².

1 The National Model Code and Guidelines: Taking Images or Videos of Children While Providing Early Childhood Education and Care

A new set of recommended child-safe practices for using electronic devices in early childhood education and care (ECEC) has been released. The [National Model Code](#)³ forms part of a range of actions in response to the 16 recommendations of the [Review of Child Safety Arrangements under the National Quality Framework](#)⁴.

The voluntary National Model Code represents best practice. It recommends that:

- only service-issued devices can be used when photographing and filming children
- personal devices can only be carried or used in limited circumstances
- strict controls must be in place for taking, sharing and storing images or videos.

The code has been designed for centre-based ECEC services approved under the National Quality Framework (NQF). However, all services may choose to adopt similar practices within their own contexts.

You can find more detail and guidance on the [Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority \(ACECQA\) website](#)⁵.

2 National Workforce Strategy – Update

Susanna provided an update on the progress of work occurring under the National ECEC Workforce Strategy – [Shaping Our Future: A ten-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, high-quality children's education and care workforce 2022-2031](#)⁶.

The [Shaping Our Future online dashboard](#)⁷ has been updated, with [implementation progress](#)⁸ tracked against each action and [overall progress](#)⁹ tracked against each Focus Area. Tasmanian initiatives have been included under [Complementary Initiatives](#)¹⁰.

The Australian Government Department of Education has expanded its [professional development subsidy](#)¹¹. In 2024-25, all Child Care Subsidy (CCS) approved providers can apply. It is no longer restricted to rural and regional locations and First Nations educators. The professional development subsidy is paid to providers to help qualified staff to complete training that adds to their skills. The subsidy covers one day of training for qualified ECEC staff. Round one applications open 23 July 2024 and close 20 September 2024. More information on professional development supports for ECEC providers, including details about Round 2 can be found on the [Australian Government Department of Education website](#)¹²

3 Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) – Update

3.1 Research and Development Project

DECYP has engaged Ernst & Young Australia as consultants for the *Supply of Engagement and Economic Modelling to Inform Approach to Supporting Early Learning for Three Year Olds in Tasmania* (the Research and Development Project).

The purpose of the Research and Development Project is to understand the range of issues affecting supply of, and demand for, ECEC services across Tasmania, as a basis for further policy and funding reforms to achieve universal access to early learning for three year olds.

This data collection, research and analysis has two main parts:

1. Stakeholder engagement with the ECEC sector, and
2. Economic modelling of ECEC supply and demand from 2025-2035.

3.2 EL3 Trial Site Update – June 2024

Initial venue assessments of potential buildings for the delivery of the EL3 trial have been undertaken by the ECU in each of the trial site communities. The purpose of these assessments is to ensure that buildings meet indoor and outdoor space requirements under the NQF and the *Child Care Act (Tas) 2001*. These assessments have identified requirements across each site, including the need for junior toilets, upgrades to food preparation facilities, upgrades to windows, access to outdoor spaces and required fencing. DECYP Facilities are now scoping required works.

A Request for Tender (RFT) for an Education and Care Service to deliver EL3 at trial sites is being finalised by DECYP Procurement and will be released once suitable sites are identified.

3.3 Local Enabling Groups (LEGS)

LEG engagement with trial site communities have continued in each of the trial site communities with meetings occurring every 4-6 weeks. Dates are advertised on the [EL3 webpage](#)¹³.

Community Inclusion Workers (CIW) have been engaged at each trial site and are providing invaluable support to the progress of EL3, including leading the survey process to gather data from families and communities.

LEG meetings are well attended with a mix of parents, community members, and early years services (including ECEC services and schools). For the rest of the year, meetings will include 'Learning Together' opportunities. These support the development of knowledge and understanding in each community relating to the goal and key principles of EL3. The DECYP EL3 Project Team, together with the LEGs, have identified key areas for learning including:

- Working in Partnership training
- Aboriginal Cultural Safety and Inclusion Practice training
- Play-based training
- Child development
- Information about the National Quality Standards, and
- How to be an inclusive community.

3.4 ECEC Workforce

Workforce has been identified as a potential barrier to delivery within each of the trial sites. EL3 LEG meetings have given trial site communities the opportunity to discuss and connect workforce solutions across the five trial sites. The EL3 Project Team are engaged with Job Hubs (state and federally funded), Child and Family Learning Centres (CFLCs), TasTAFE, Connected Beginnings, education and care services and providers, Councils, and local businesses about how to work together to support parents and community members to study toward Certificate III or Diploma level qualifications in ECEC.

This work is supported by the actions out of the election commitments regarding the establishment of the ECEC Workforce Roundtable, funding for the Early Years and School Aged Care Workforce Strategy (EYSAC), and funding for Certificate III and Diploma programs and scholarships.

3.5 Implementation Plan

The EL3 implementation Plan has been updated, with trials to commence in early 2025. Previous implementation plans had predicted some trial sites to be operational by the end of 2024, however these timelines have now been extended to ensure regulatory requirements and commitments to ongoing engagement with the ECEC sector can be achieved. The commencement of the trials in early 2025 will also allow ECEC providers time for service approval processes, enrolments and engagement with families.

The ECU will continue to share the regular EL3 Communiques via email with ECEC services and providers. For more information on EL3, visit the [EL3 webpage](#)¹⁴.

4 ECU Operational Updates

4.1 Compliance

Changes to some ECU processes are in place from 1 July 2024. The ECU will no longer be using what have been referred to as 'apparent breach letters'. Timeframes have also been implemented for providers and services to provide information for submitted notifications and applications.

These changes are detailed in [ECU Newsletter - Issue 3 2024](#)¹⁵.

5 Next Meeting

The meeting scheduled for September 2024 was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for November 2024. We encourage providers, services, educators, families, and communities to contact their SRG representative should they wish to raise any issues for consultation or provide information to the ECU. Up-to-date details of [SRG members](#)¹⁶ can be found on the [ECU website](#)¹⁷.

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Department *for* Education, Children and Young People

Links

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- ¹ ECU SRG Terms of Reference | Education and Care Unit - <https://publicdocumentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/library/Shared%20Documents/Education-and-Care-Unit-Stakeholder-Reference-Group-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>
 - ² Home | Education and Care Unit - <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/>
 - ³ National Model Code Taking Images and Videos | ACECQA - <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/National%20Model%20Code%20Taking%20Images%20and%20Videos.pdf>
 - ⁴ Review of Child Safety Arrangements under the National Quality Framework Final Report | ACECQA - https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/Review%20of%20Child%20Safety%20Arrangements%20under%20the%20National%20Quality%20Framework-full_report.pdf
 - ⁵ National Model Code – Taking images in ECEC | ACECQA - <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/national-model-code-taking-images-early-childhood-education-and-care>
 - ⁶ Shaping Our Future | ACECQA - <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/ShapingOurFutureChildrensEducationandCareNationalWorkforceStrategy-September2021.pdf>
 - ⁷ Workforce Dashboard | ACECQA - <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/index.html>
 - ⁸ Workforce Dashboard – Implementation Tracker | ACECQA - <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/implementation-tracker.html>
 - ⁹ Workforce Dashboard – Progress Tracker | ACECQA - <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/measuring-progress.html>
 - ¹⁰ Workforce Dashboard – Complementary Initiatives | ACECQA - <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/complementary-initiatives.html>
 - ¹¹ Professional development subsidy | Australian Government Department of Education - <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/workforce/support/professional-development-opportunities/professional-development-subsidy>
 - ¹² Professional development opportunities | Australian Government Department of Education - <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/workforce/support/professional-development-opportunities>
 - ¹³ Early Learning for Three Year Olds | Department for Education, Children and Young People - <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/>
 - ¹⁴ Early Learning for Three Year Olds | Department for Education, Children and Young People - <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/>
 - ¹⁵ ECU Newsletter Issue 3 2024 | Education and Care Unit - [ECU-Newsletter-Issue-3-2024.pdf](https://www.education.tas.gov.au/education.tas.gov.au)
 - ¹⁶ SRG members | Education and Care Unit - <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/stakeholder-reference-group/members/>
 - ¹⁷ ECU website - <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/>