



Stakeholder Reference Group

Communique 28 – November 2024

ECU SRG membership:

Australian Childcare Alliance	Tim Short
Catholic Education Tasmania	Natasha Williams
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
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	vacant
Centre based care - long day care	vacant
Parents & Families	vacant

The ECU SRG met 26 November 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 Lifting Literacy Project Update

In June 2023, the Tasmanian Government accepted all priority recommendations of the independent Literacy Advisory Panel, with the aim of taking Tasmania towards the aspirational goal of 100 per cent literacy. The three-year [DECYP Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan](#)³ sets out the actions DECYP will take from 2024 to 2026, including developing an evidence-based online training package for ECEC educators. This plan is informed by the high-level [implementation plan of the Department of Premier and Cabinet \(DPAC\)](#)⁴.

The DECYP Lifting Literacy in Schools and Early Years team has engaged with ECU SRG members on actions in the [DECYP Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan](#). More information on this project will be available in 2025.

2 RTO Update: ASQA Compliance Campaign on RTOs and Tasmanian Impact

Regulatory actions taken by the Australian Skills Quality Agency (ASQA) to cancel Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) and qualifications may impact early childhood education and care educators, services and providers operating in Tasmania.

ASQA has cancelled the registration of Registered Training Organisations:

- Luvium (Australia Education & Career College (trading as Australia Education & Career College 52865)
- Gills College Australia Pty Ltd (Gills College, trading as Elite College Australia and/or Sterling Business College 2417/01701G)
- International Institute of Education and Training Pty Ltd (IJET, trading as EDU VET 40993)
- DSA Ventures Pty Ltd (DSA Ventures, trading as Australian Academy of Elite Education 45442)

ASQA has notified affected students and, as the seven day show cause timeframes for response to ASQA's notices of intent to cancel qualifications have passed, has commenced cancelling individual qualifications. Where employment records are available, ASQA has commenced the process of contacting potentially impacted employers.

ECEC providers and services are encouraged to check their staffing records for potentially invalid qualifications and statements of attainment, as the employment information available to ASQA may not be complete or current.

Anyone who believes they are impacted should refer to:

- [ASQA regulatory action – notices of intent to cancel qualifications - Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government](#)⁵
- [Information for former students of cancelled providers | Australian Skills Quality Authority \(ASQA\)](#)⁶.

Providers, services and educators can access further information about qualification requirements on the [ACECQA website](#)⁷. Ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of children is a critical component of the National Quality Framework (NQF) and the Child Care Act 2001 (CCA) and qualifications are mandated to ensure the provision of safe and high-quality outcomes for children in education and care services across Australia. We will work with providers and services to support them in meeting regulatory requirements and operating safely. It's important that providers actively manage potential risks and engage with ECU for advice if they have any concerns about their ability to maintain ratios, provide appropriate supervision, and run a child-safe service.

3 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](#)⁸.

3.1 Shaping our Future online dashboard

The [Shaping Our Future online dashboard](#)⁹ has been updated, with [implementation progress](#)¹⁰ tracked against each action and overall progress tracked against each Focus Area.

3.2 FA1-2: ECT Registration

The Teacher Registration Act review has been endorsed. The main focus will be safe children, quality practice and modern regulation. Early Childhood Teacher registration is included in the Terms of Reference. A consultation on how this can be implemented for Tasmania is being planned for early 2025. Further information will be shared as it becomes available.

3.3 FA5-1: Review of Staffing and Qualification Requirements

The following workforce transitional provisions, originally set to expire on 31 December 2024, have now been extended to 31 December 2026:

- Regulation 239A - Centre-based services in remote and very remote areas— attendance of early childhood teachers
- Regulation 242 - Persons taken to be early childhood teachers

The following workforce transitional provision, due to expire on 31 December 2024, will expire as planned on 31 December 2024: *

- Regulation 240 - centre-based services in remote and very remote areas – qualifications for educators

Work will now progress to amend the National Regulations to extend the operation of the three provisions as outlined above, before the end of 2024.

For more information, please visit the ACECQA website: [Extension of workforce transitional provisions](#)¹¹.

The review of the implementation of OSHC qualifications has been provided to Education Ministers who are considering the necessary options to improve the identified workforce challenges. Policy and consultation work will follow.

**This information reflects what was shared in the ECU SRG meeting, November 2024. Updated information on expiring regulations has since been provided by the Education and Care Unit, in an Info Sharing email on 19 December 2024 (Info Sharing: Update to Education and Care Services National Amendment (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2024).*

3.4 OSHC Qualification Review

[Humanability's Outside of School Hours Care \(OSHC\) project](#)¹² will transition the Accredited Course 10983NAT Certificate III in Outside School Hours Care course to the CHC Community Services Training Package, which currently only includes a 4-unit OSHC Skill Set (CHCSS00119).

Consultation at a national level will commence in February 2025 for an expected project completion by September 2025.

4 Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3)

The EL3 initiative is one of the first steps towards achieving the Tasmanian Government's commitment for access to early learning for every child in the year before kindergarten

Five EL3 Trial Sites are being established in areas where there is low or no capacity in existing ECEC services: East Devonport, Bruny Island, Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island, Break O'Day and West Coast. Through this process, the EL3 team have been working with ECEC services (as the preferred provider), families and communities to increase access to early learning in their area. It is expected that the first Trial Sites will be up and running in 2025.

Further updates will be provided on the [Early Learning for Three Years Olds initiative website](#)¹³.

5 2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future - OSHC, Land Audit

[More Quality Childcare and Early Education for Tasmanian Families](#)¹⁴ is one of the areas the government is taking action on as part of the **2030 Strong Plan for Tasmania's Future**. This includes commitments to support Tasmanian schools to establish new onsite OSHC services in partnership with local ECEC providers, and to audit Government land and release surplus land for the provision and expansion of new ECEC services.

A comprehensive land audit has been conducted to identify government land that could be utilised, and consultation was undertaken with schools who do not currently offer OSHC to determine the level of need in their communities.

The next steps will include implementation planning with stakeholders in 2025, investigating the potential expansion of services, the best way to engage with the sector, what supports are needed for ECEC services, and where there are gaps and demand. Further information will be shared as it becomes available.

6 Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in the first quarter of 2025. 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](#)¹⁵ can be found on the [ECU website](#)¹⁶.

Vidhya Chelliah
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Links

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- ¹ ECU SRG Terms of Reference | <https://publicdocumentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/library/Shared%20Documents/Education-and-Care-Unit-Stakeholder-Reference-Group-Terms-of-Reference.pdf>
 - ² ECU website | <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/news/newsletters-archive/>
 - ³ DECYP Lifting Literacy Implementation Plan 2024–2026 | <https://publicdocumentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/library/Shared%20Documents/Lifting-Literacy-Implementation-Plan-2024-2026.pdf>
 - ⁴ DPAC Lifting Literacy 3-year implementation plan | https://www.dpac.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0014/330044/Lifting-Literacy-3-year-Implementation-Plan.pdf
 - ⁵ ASQA regulatory action – notices of intent to cancel qualifications - Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Australian Government | <https://www.dewr.gov.au/asqa-regulatory-action-notices-intent-cancel-qualifications>
 - ⁶ ASQA website | <https://www.asqa.gov.au/information-former-students-cancelled-providers>
 - ⁷ Qualifications - ACECQA website | <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/qualifications>
 - ⁸ Shaping Our Future: A ten-year strategy to ensure a sustainable, high-quality children’s education and care workforce 2022-20316 | <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-10/ShapingOurFutureChildrensEducationandCareNationalWorkforceStrategy-September2021.pdf>
 - ⁹ Shaping Our Future dashboard | <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/index.html>
 - ¹⁰ Shaping Our Future – Implementation tracker | <https://snapshots.acecqa.gov.au/workforcedashboard/implementation-tracker.html>
 - ¹¹ ACECQA - Extension of workforce transitional provisions | <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/extension-workforce-transitional-provisions>
 - ¹² HumanAbility – Outside School Hours Care Project | <https://humanability.com.au/projects/outside-school-hours-care.aspx>
 - ¹³ Early Learning for Three Year Olds initiative | <https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/>
 - ¹⁴ More Quality Childcare and Early Education for Tasmanian Families | <https://www.premier.tas.gov.au/our-plan/taking-action-on-the-cost-of-living-and-providing-more-housing-options-for-tasmanians/more-quality-childcare-and-early-education-for-tasmanian-families>
 - ¹⁵ ECU SRG members | <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/stakeholder-reference-group/members/>
 - ¹⁶ ECU website | <https://educationandcare.tas.gov.au/>