



Stakeholder Reference Group

Communique 22 – March 2023

ECU SRG membership:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Helen Ransom, Aboriginal Program Officer – Vocational Learning
Australian Childcare Alliance	Mel Reid-Prewer
Catholic Education Tasmania	Donna Bucher, Assistant Director Education Projects
Centre based care - long day care	Chris Symons, Centre Director, Rainbow Childcare and Early Learning Centre
Centre based care - OSHC	Kellie Lohrey, Director, Groovy Kidz Childcare Centre & OSHC
Local Government provider representative	Kate Whitbread, Glenorchy City Council
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, Early Years Consultant
Out of Scope services	Tracey Roberts, Wombats Child Care Centre
United Workers Union	Gwen Alcock, National Strategic Coordinator – Early Childhood, United Workers Union
Parent/family representative	Position vacant

The ECU SRG met in March 2023. The information below reflects the discussion and outcomes from the meeting:

I ECU Staffing – Update

Manager of the ECU, Vidhya Chelliah, will be continuing the important work she is doing in the national policy space and in leading the Closing the Gap work for DECYP. Janelle Brennan continues to Act as Manager of the ECU until 30 April 2023. An Expression of Interest (EOI) will open shortly to backfill the Manager position for a 12-month period from May 2023. To ensure continuity in operational functionality and best support the sector, Charlotte Geeves is Acting Operations Manager - Assessment and Rating. Petra Ambrosiussen is Acting Regulatory Officer during this period.

Estelle Clerk, Policy and Engagement Manager, has returned to the ECU after a period of extended leave. Annette Bourke, Administration Officer, has retired. Daisy Bacon has been appointed in the role of Project and Administration Officer.

Recruitment for a Project Manager - Education and Care Workforce Strategy, as well as recruitment for an Education and Care Assessor to cover maternity leave is underway.

2 Revised Assessment and Rating processes in 2023

From 2023 some Assessment and Rating (A&R) processes will be changing in Tasmania, in line with a revised national approach. This includes:

- Increased use of partial A&R visits (for services with a current 2018 NQS rating).
- Increased focus on service's quality improvement journey, including the QIP, as an ongoing process.
- Introduction of shorter notice periods for A&R visits (1-5 days).

To support services, the ECU have developed a suite of resources which are available on the on the [ECU website](#):

- [ECU Information Sheet - Changes to Assessment and Rating in 2023](#)
- [ECU Information Sheet – Partial Reassessments](#)
- [ECU changes in A&R information sheet](#)
- [ECU Information Sheet - Assessment and Rating Visits 2023](#)
- [ECU FAQs - Assessment and Rating 2023](#)
- [ECU Documentation Guide and Curriculum Overview for CBC Services 2023](#)
- [ECU A&R Optional Reflective Questions for CBC Services 2023](#)
- [ECU Tip Sheet - Submitting your QIP through the NQAITS portal](#)
- [ECU Information Sheet - Submitting your QIP](#)

3 Review of NQF qualifications and staff requirements

ACECQA will be leading a review of the staffing and qualification requirements under the NQF with the aim of supporting national consistency and quality, as well as reducing complexity.

Public consultation is occurring largely online, from now until mid-August 2023.

A report will be provided to the Australian Government Education Minister at the end of 2023.

4 2023 meetings

Next meeting is scheduled for 6 June 2023. We encourage providers, services, educators, families, and communities to contact their SRG representatives, should they wish to raise any issues for consultation or provide information to the ECU. Details of [SRG members](#) can be found on the [ECU website](#).

Janelle Brennan
A/Manager, Education and Care Unit
Department for Education, Children and Young People