Early Learning for Three Year Olds

ECEC Roundtable

14 DECEMBER 2023

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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Imaged Sourced: Flinders Island - The Jewel of Bass Strait (discovertasmania.com.au)

Getting to know each other

- In one word, how would you describe 2023, and why?
- Think and share in pairs
- Share 2 times for 2 minutes each
- *Online participants: share with the group*

Purpose of the Day

- ❑ Share information on Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3)
- ❑ Hear you questions or wonderings and respond
- ❑ Seek your expertise, ideas and reflections
- ❑ Hear from you about how you want to be communicated with and engaged

Time	Item		Led By
9.30 am	1	Acknowledgment of Country	
9.35 am	2	Getting to know each other	Suzanne Purdon
9.45 am	3	Agenda and approach to the meeting Working Together Agreement	Suzanne Purdon
10.05 am	4	Introduction to the EL3 Initiative Question and Answer session	Jenny Burgess Ros Cornish
10.35 am	5	Update on EL3 Trial Sites – Potential models recommended by Local Enabling Groups Seeking feedback	Suzanne Purdon
11.20 am	Break – Morning Tea		
11.35 am	6	Process for engaging ECEC providers to deliver EL3 in trial site communities Questions and feedback	Suzanne Purdon
11.55 pm	7	Research and Development Project Questions and feedback	Libby Henry
12.10 pm	8	Ongoing Engagement and Communication with ECEC sector	Suzanne Purdon
12.20 pm	9	Reflections and feedback on meeting	Suzanne Purdon
12.30 pm	10	Close	

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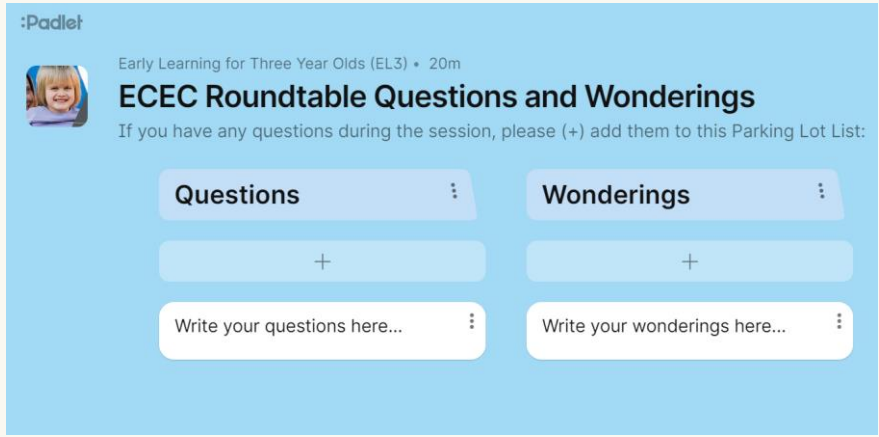
Process for today

Questions:

- Talk or ‘raise hand’ on teams
- Padlet is a ‘parking lot’ for questions
- QR code to access Padlet is at tables and in the online meeting chat
- We will regularly pause to respond
- We will ‘take on notice’ if unable to answer



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Working Together Agreement

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Overview EL3

- Expanding access to early learning is a Tasmanian Government priority
- Commitment to universal access to early learning in the year before kindergarten
- National reform effort
- In Tasmania, ECEC sector is the right place for early learning in the year before kindergarten
- Strong partnership between ECEC and DECYP is critical

Overview EL3

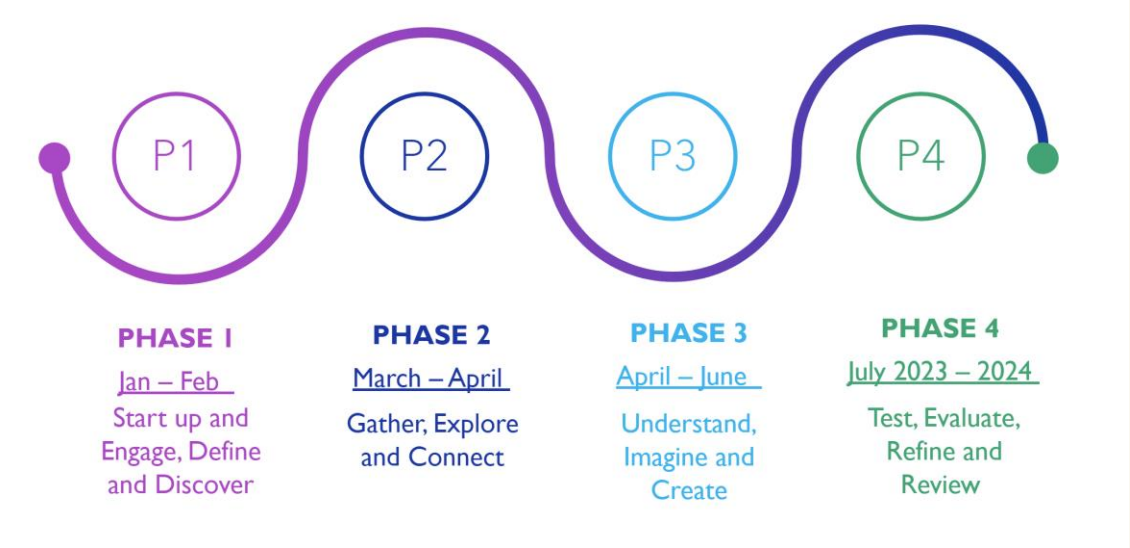
- 2023-24 State Budget Funding – up to six early learning services designed in partnership with ECEC services and local communities
- Implemented in partnership with ECEC sector and co-designed with local services and communities
- Community engagement and ‘What we Heard’ report

Overview EL3

Guiding Principles

1. Quality, age-appropriate and play-based
2. Delivered by a qualified workforce
3. Accessible to all three year olds for up to 15 hours distributed over a week
4. Place-based, flexible, innovative and meets local needs
5. Children and their wellbeing are central to decision making
6. Cost will not be a barrier to participation
7. Informed by evidence and research
8. Implemented through a co-design approach with families, communities and early learning service providers

Co-Design Roadmap 2023-24



Q&A Session

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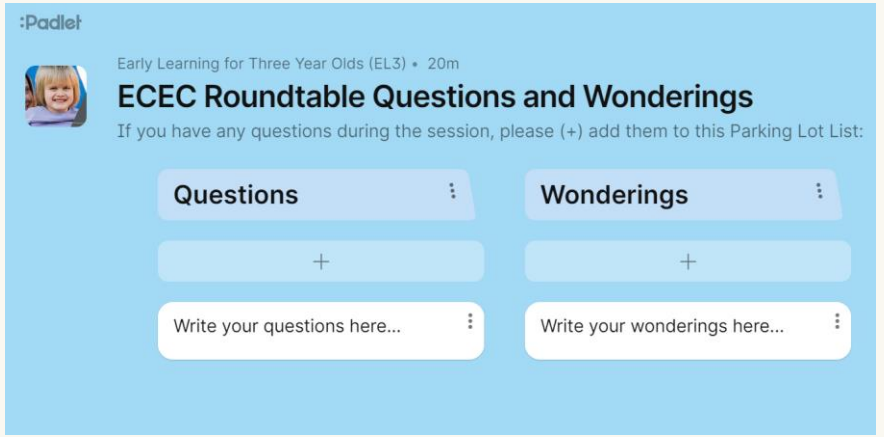

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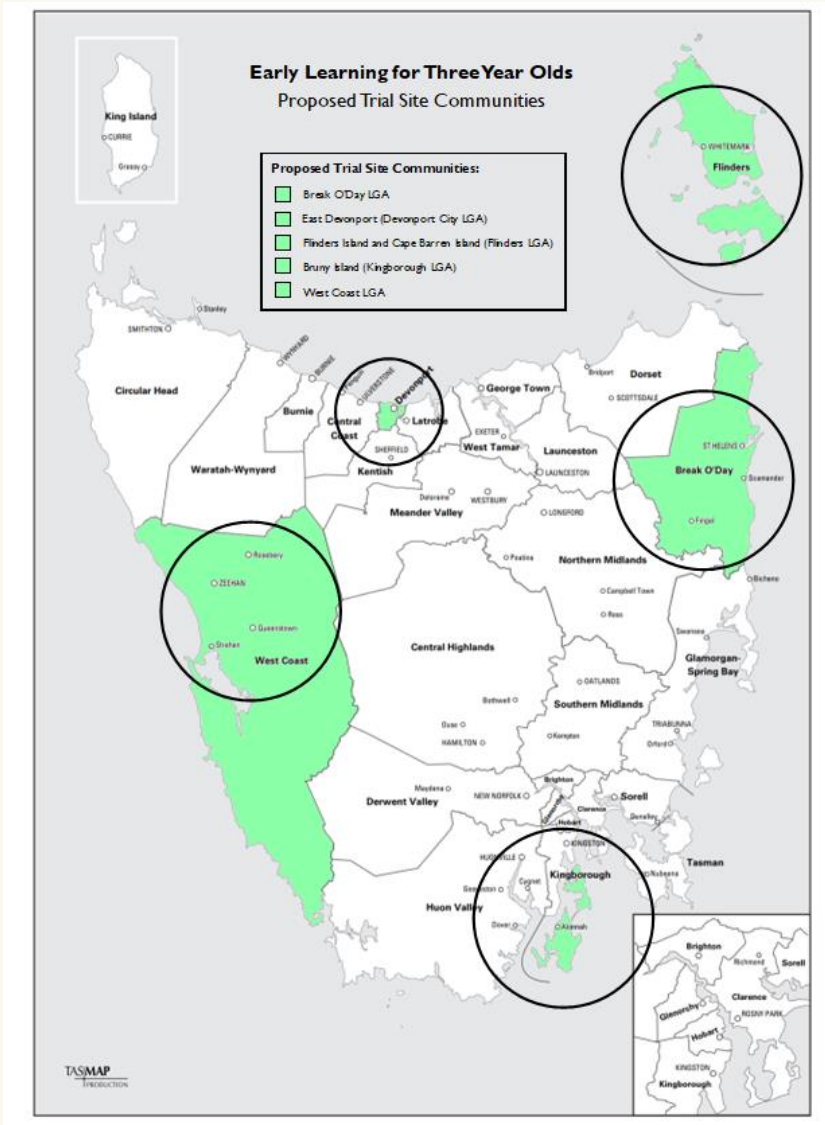
Update on EL3 Trial Sites

Trial Sites at:

- St Helens, St Marys, Beaumaris, Scamander, Fingal, with possible outreach to Coles Bay (Break O'Day LGA, Glamorgan-Spring Bay LGA)
- East Devonport (Devonport City LGA)
- Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island (Flinders LGA)
- Bruny Island (Kingborough LGA)
- Queenstown, Strahan, Zeehan and Rosebery (West Coast LGA)



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East Devonport

Proposed Model – ‘Hub’ ECEC, School and CFLC

- No ECEC provision in East Devonport
- EL3 to be delivered on the East Devonport School site, adjacent to the CFLC, in the existing, vacant Drew St building, noting building requires some minor building works
- Delivered by ECEC provider under the National Quality Framework or the *Tasmanian Child Care Act 2001* - to be determined
- Venue has capacity for 15 children
- Projected number of 3 year olds for 2024 is 54. Work is underway to determine how many of these 3 year olds are not engaged in ECEC
- Priority to children not currently accessing a service
- Times and days - to be determined

Flinders Island

Proposed Model – Partnership Co-Located on School Site

- EL3 to be delivered in space next to current Kinder, noting building works required
- Delivered by ECEC provider under the National Quality Framework or the *Tasmanian Child Care Act 2001* - to be determined
- Partnership approach with ECEC, School and community – joint PL, training, sharing of staff
- 4- 7 3 year olds
- 2-3 days a week, aligned to school hours
- Consideration for support with transport
- *Note Cape Barren Island requires further investigation*

West Coast

Proposed Model - Regional Model delivered by one Provider

- Low numbers of 3 year olds, 4 small communities, currently ECEC provision in Queenstown, transport and workforce issues
- EL3 to commence with offering 1 day in each town and build on this over time
- Proposing an ECEC provider has regional oversite and possibly same educators working across the sites
- Regulated under the Delivered by ECEC provider under the National Quality Framework or the Tasmanian Child Care Act 2001 - to be determined
- Venues TBC in regions: ECEC, school, community site.
- Projected number of 3 year olds 46. Surveying community to determine exactly where 3 year olds are located and future numbers
- Regional Job Hubs – West North West Working supporting training locally

Morning Tea Break

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Process for engaging ECEC providers to deliver EL3 in trial site communities

- How do we make the process explicit and accessible to all providers?
- What would ECEC providers need to know to express an interest in providing the service during the trial period?
- The Guiding Principles will be the basis for service delivery
- What else do we need to consider?

Principles for Criteria

1. Quality, age-appropriate and play-based
2. Delivered by a qualified workforce
3. Accessible to all three year olds for up to 15 hours distributed over a week
4. Place-based, flexible, innovative and meets local needs
5. Children and their wellbeing are central to decision making
6. Cost will not be a barrier to participation
7. Informed by evidence and research
8. Implemented through a co-design approach with families, communities and early learning service providers

EL3 Research and Development Project

- Research and Development Project in Hobart and Launceston
- RFQ to consultancies released this week
- Engagement with ECEC sector to
  - Understand challenges and barriers to expansion in Hobart and Launceston
  - Understand the capacity of ECEC services across the state and expected growth
- Specification developed in consultation with EL3 Advisory Group

EL3 Research and Development Project

- Indicative time period for engagement with ECEC sector – **May/June 2024:**
  - Face to face interviews with individual services providers
  - De-identified survey(s)
  - Group workshops with key stakeholders, including ECEC workforce
- Further communications to the sector on this project next year

- Questions to the group:
  - How do we ensure the engagement with ECEC providers is successful?
  - What else might we need to consider?

Ongoing communication and engagement with the ECEC sector

- What is the best way to engage ECECs?
- What would this look like?
- What’s the best way to keep ECEC providers informed?

Reflections and feedback on this meeting

Purpose of the Day – did we achieve it?

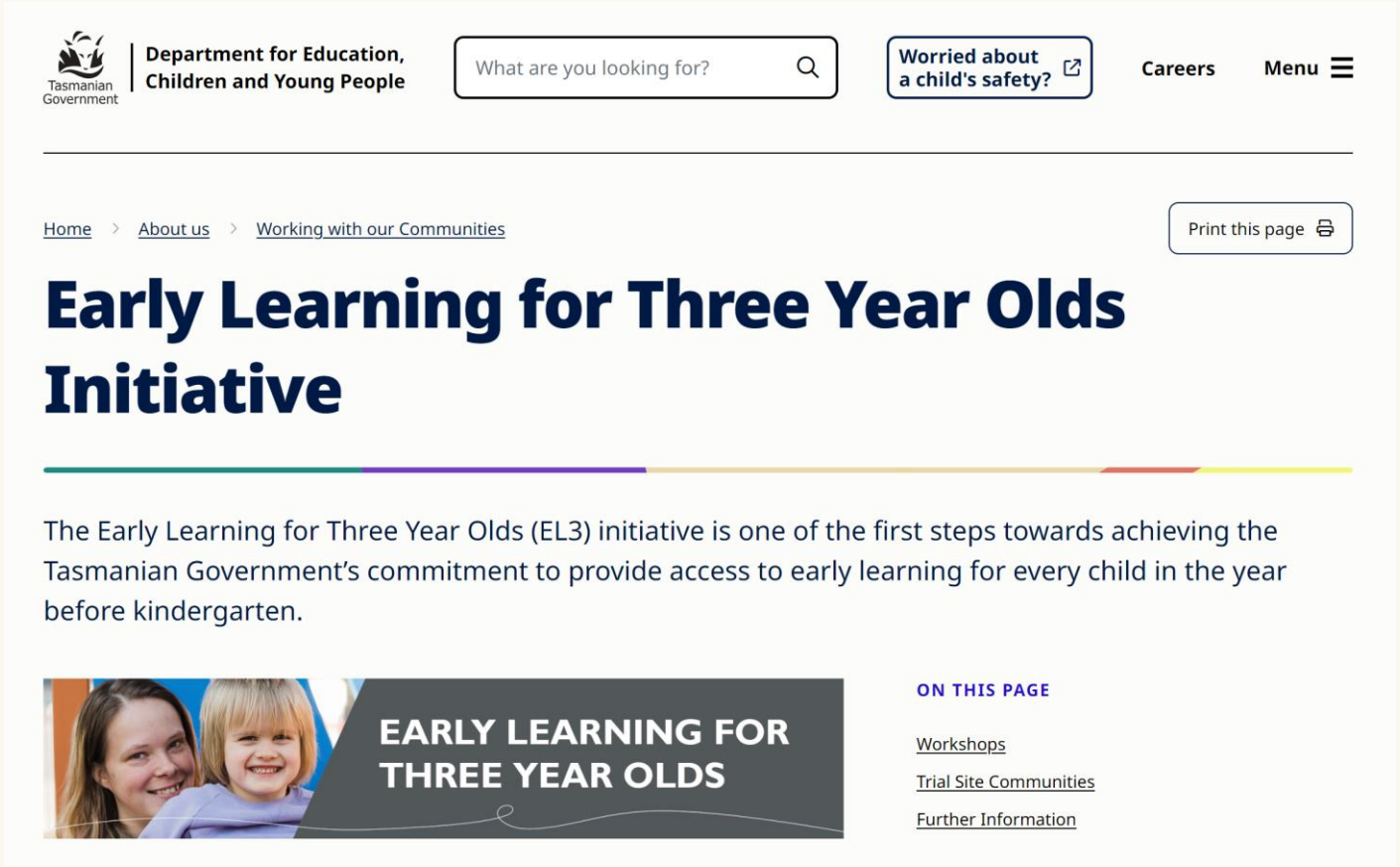
- ❑ Share information on Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3)
- ❑ Hear you questions or wonderings and respond
- ❑ Seek your expertise, ideas and reflections
- ❑ Hear from you about how you want to be communicated with and engaged

Visit the EL3 Webpage

- Early Learning for Three Year Olds is one of a number of Tasmanian Government initiatives that aim to increase access to early learning.
- The initiative is funded through the 2023-24 State Budget to establish up to six early learning services designed in partnership with ECEC services and local communities.
- A key goal of EL3 is to partner with the ECEC sector in the design and implementation of the initiative, and for services to be co-designed with local ECEC services and communities to ensure that they are tailored to meet local needs.

Search **“EL3 Tasmania”**

and click on the first link



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Department for Education, Children and Young People
[Unit name]
GPO Box 169
Hobart, Tasmania 7001

www.decyp.tas.gov.au

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