NOVEMBER 2024

Early Learning for Three Year Olds

Communique #12

EL3 Advisory Group

The EL3 Advisory Group met on 20 November 2024 and received an update on EL3 Trial Sites and ECEC Roundtable.

The EL3 Advisory Group meeting schedule for 2025 is under review and will be released in January 2025. The Advisory Group is considering its purpose, role and frequency of meetings as part of a review of its terms of reference.

EL3 Trial Site Update

The EL3 Project Team provided an update on the progress of trial sites and implementation plan for 2025.

DECYP is working closely with EL3 Trial Site communities and with the ECEC sector to establish the Trial Sites. It is expected that the first Trial Sites will be up and running in 2025.

Some EL3 Trial Site have not progressed within the expected timeframe due to several factors, including the government's commitment to collaborating with the sector and local communities to ensure that the services provided meet community needs and are delivered from venues that comply with the regulatory, safety, and quality standards required for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC).

DECYP will continue to work with communities through Local Enabling Groups (LEGs) in 2025 to expand early learning programs and services and work towards the goal of partnering with ECEC providers to deliver new services.

An update on each Trial Site is as follows.

East Devonport – Co-location partnership between East Devonport Primary School and an ECEC provider will be established in 2025. Tender process closed in November 2025. EL3 Trial Site service is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2025.

Bruny Island – The LEG identified a preferred site at the Bruny Island District School and building scoping has been completed.

Department for Education,
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The LEG is investigating alternative long-term options to ensure any approach to capital investment has maximum benefit for young children and the whole community.

The LEG is working to expand early learning programs and services in 2025, through extended Launching into Learning hours, Child and Family Learning Centre Outreach and associated Adjunct Care for children.

Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island – Building scoping has been completed and the LEG is investigating options to ensure any approach to capital investment has maximum benefit for young children and the whole community. DECYP together with the LEG and existing ECEC service in Whitemark, will continue to work together towards the longer term goal of expanded ECEC. The LEG will continue to work alongside the Cape Barren Island community to focus on expanding early learning programs and supports in 2025.

Break O'Day – The LEG has investigated various venues across the region. An existing site in Fingal, has been identified for expansion to offer EL3 in 2025. Planning for expansion of existing ECEC service in Fingal is underway and is expected to commence in the first quarter of 2025.

West Coast – The West Coast EL3 Trial Site will be a School Partnership Model with an ECEC co-located on the Zeehan Primary School site. The LEG has identified the Launching into Learning Room at the Zeehan Primary School as the preferred site. The commencement of an ECEC service at this site will be determined following the completion of building scoping and request for tender process in 2025.

LEG Meetings

LEG meetings have continued across trial sites with online meetings scheduled in December to include a review of Working Together Agreements, reflections from 2024 and planning for 2025.

LEG subgroups on the West Coast and in the Break O' Day region continue to meet and act on community-led plans to strengthen ECEC workforce within their region.

On the West Coast the subgroup is focussed on sharing information about the importance of the early years and promoting career opportunities specific to the region.

The Break O'Day LEG are taking a community led approach to supporting locals studying their Certificate III in ECEC by ensuring people are connected and resourced including hosting a weekly study group session at the CFLC, supported by a Community Inclusion Worker.

ECEC Roundtable

There will be no ECEC Roundtable at the end of 2024, as it coincides with a busy period for the sector.

The EL3 Project Team attended the Education and Care Unit Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) on 26 November 2024 to provide an update on the governments Outside School Hours Care and Land Audit election commitments. There will be opportunity for the sector to provide feedback on the implementation of these initiatives through targeted consultation in Quarter 1, 2025.

Have a question or comment?

Further information including previous Communiques can be found at: https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/

If you have any questions, please contact: el3@decyp.tas.gov.au