FEBRUARY 2024

Early Learning for Three Year Olds

Communique #7

ECEC Roundtable

The first Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Roundtable was held on 14 December 2023. The purpose of the Roundtable was to bring together ECEC providers from across the state to:

- Share information about the Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) initiative, including the approach we are taking to design and implementation.
- Hear questions or wonderings and provide responses or take questions on notice.
- Seek ECEC expertise, ideas and reflections across key areas of implementation.
- Hear from ECECs about how best to have ongoing engagement and communication.

Discussions centred around feedback on the proposed service models to test during the trial phase, the Research and Development Project, engagement and communication to the ECEC sector about the initiative, and on commencement age considerations for the initiative. Participants were also able to ask questions and wonderings.

Feedback from the ECEC Roundtable has been collated and is available on the EL3 Webpage.

The upcoming Tasmanian state election has placed all government departments under Caretaker Conventions which affect some aspects of the business of government. In light of these, the next ECEC Roundtable will be postponed and a new scheduled meeting date will be determined following the establishment of an incoming government.

EL3 Advisory Group

The EL3 Advisory Group met on 1 February 2024 and discussed feedback from the first ECEC Roundtable and eligibility requirements for the EL3 trial sites.

Discussions were had regarding EL3 trial sites and the impact of three year olds attending the trial service and what impact this would have on existing services and what is in the best interests of the child. Existing ECEC service input into deciding if criteria is required and what this would be will be critical at each trial site.

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Considerations of the commencement age for EL3 was also discussed, noting that the testing of different commencement ages may be tested during the trial phase of the initiative and will be further considered in the evaluation of the initiative.

The next EL3 Advisory Group has been cancelled in light of the upcoming Tasmanian state election and Caretaker Conventions which affect some aspects of the business of government.

Have a question or comment?

If you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact: el3@decyp.tas.gov.au

Further information including previous Communiques on the EL3 initiative can be found at: https://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/