OCTOBER 2023

Early Learning for Three Year Olds

Communique #5

Communities working together to establish Trial Sites

Five communities across Tasmania have been selected to work together to establish trial early learning services for three year olds in 2024.

Work is underway in the five communities as part of a place-based approach to designing and establishing early learning services for three year olds, tailored to community need.

In August and September 2023, Community Workshops were held in in East Devonport, Strahan, Queenstown, St Helens and St Marys and on Flinders and Bruny Islands.

The purpose of the Community Workshops was to gather further information and ideas to inform the design of trial sites and to build a shared understanding of what quality early learning to meet local community need could look like.

Community Workshop attendees considered the principles for early learning for three year olds (confirmed through broad community engagement earlier this year) and developed a shared vision for early learning in their community. No decisions were made about the design of the services at the Community Workshops.

The next step in the place-based approach is the establishment of Local Enabling Groups (LEGs) in each trial site in September and October 2023. ECEC services, families and community representatives can work together at the LEGs for the remainder of the year on the design and establishment of services for 2024.

ECEC services will be the preferred provider across the trial sites, in recognition of the importance of growing and sustaining the ECEC sector for the benefit of all young children and their families.

Other options may be explored in regions where there is no ECEC service or the service has no capacity, including for example through extensions to existing ECEC services or partnerships with local schools or Child and Family Learning Centres. The intention would be for non-ECEC service options to be stepping-stones to a sustainable long-term solution in partnership with the ECEC sector.

If you want to be involved in a LEG in one of the five trial site communities, please get in touch at el3@decyp.tas.gov.au.

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

EL3 Advisory Panel

A Co-Design Planning Group (the Planning Group) was established early in 2023, co-chaired by Ros Cornish and Jenny Burgess, Associate Secretary, DECYP, to provide strategic guidance on how to develop and implement a co-design process with key stakeholders.

Co-chairs Ros Cornish and Jenny Burgess would like to thank the Co-Design Planning Group for their support, expertise and involvement in this work.

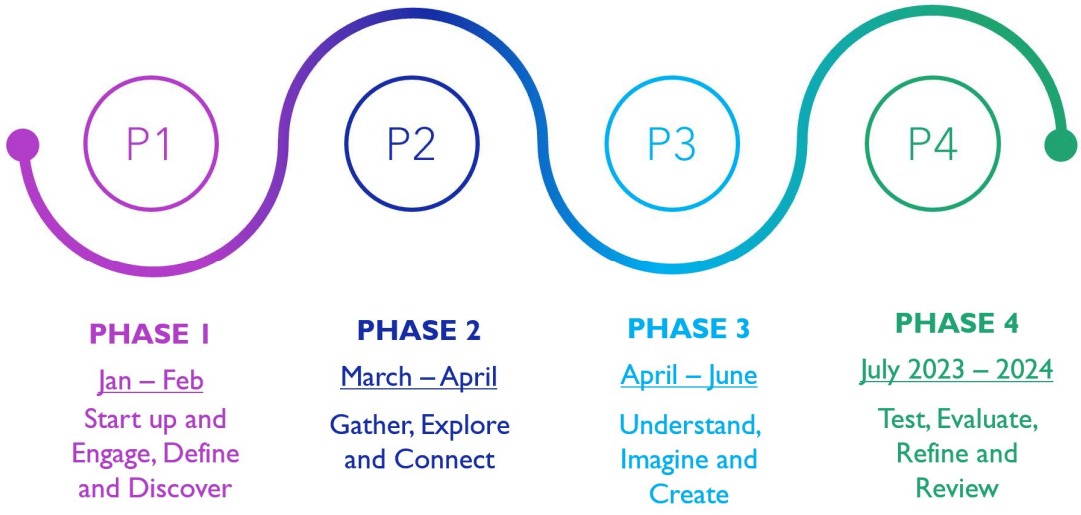
For the next phase of the EL3 Initiative, the Co-Design Planning Group will be replaced by an EL3 Advisory Group with membership from the ECEC sector and Independent and Catholic Education Sectors and other key stakeholder representatives where appropriate.

The purpose of the EL3 Advisory Group is to provide advice and guidance during Phase 4 of the co-design process (Fig. 1 below) which includes the testing, evaluating, refining and reviewing of the five trial sites, and the Research and Development Project across Hobart and Launceston.

The EL3 Advisory Group will be co-chaired by Ros Cornish and Jenny Burgess, Associate Secretary, DECYP. Membership of the group includes Early Childhood Australia (Tasmania Branch), Catholic Education Tasmania, Family Day Care Tasmania, Australian Childcare Alliance, Independent Schools Tasmania, the Education and Care Unit, DECYP and the DECYP Project Team.

The EL3 Advisory Group will meet approximately every six weeks, and the progress and outcomes of work with this group will be communicated to the sector via regular Communiques.

Fig. 1: Early Learning for Three Year Olds Co-Design Roadmap



Hobart and Launceston Project

Planning for a research and development project across Hobart and Launceston is underway, in close consultation with the EL3 Advisory Group, to better understand the supports and actions needed for future expansion of early learning for three year olds in these areas.

Opportunities to be involved in this work will be communicated to the ECEC sector as soon as possible. At this stage, engagement activities across Hobart and Launceston will take place in early 2024.

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 www.decyp.tas.gov.au/about-us/community-and-engagement/early-learning-for-three-year-olds/