NOVEMBER 2023

Early Learning for Three Year Olds

Communique #6

What is Early Learning for Three Year Olds?

Implementation of Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) has been underway since early 2023, and it is timely to reinforce some key messages on the purpose of EL3.

The Tasmanian Government has made a commitment that all children in Tasmania will have access to early learning in the year before kindergarten.

The Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) initiative aims to expand access to early learning for three years olds in partnership with the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector, families and communities.

Under the EL3 initiative, up to six Trial Sites will be established in communities to test different models of early learning service delivery to meet local community needs.

DECYP has partnered with the ECEC sector and the Catholic and Independent education sectors to co-design the EL3 initiative.

ECEC services are best placed to provide quality early learning for three year olds and will be the preferred provider of EL3 services across the state. DECYP recognises the importance of growing and sustaining the ECEC sector for the benefit of all young children and their families in Tasmania.

Under the EL3 initiative, Trial Sites are being established in some areas where there is low or no capacity of existing ECEC services. This means that through the process of establishing the Trial Site, ECEC services (as the preferred provider), DECYP, families and communities can work together to increase access to early learning in their area. This could include innovative approaches and partnerships aligned to the key principles, between ECEC services and DECYP schools or Child and Family Learning Centres.

Further work will be done to understand how all three year olds in Tasmania can have access to quality early learning over time. This will include targeted engagement in Hobart and Launceston and with ECEC services across the state to understand the opportunities and challenges and to plan a way forward.

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

For more information on the EL3 initiative visit:

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

Local Enabling Groups in Trial Site Communities

Local Enabling Groups (LEGS) have been established in all Trial Site communities – East Devonport, Flinders Island, Bruny Island, the Break O'Day region and the West Coast – following extensive engagement and Community Workshops.

A LEG is a group of interested people who work together to shape what Early Learning for Three Year Olds (EL3) may look like in their community. The LEG members make sure that local views and ideas are considered as part of the design and service delivery.

The LEGs are an important part of the place-based approach and support ECEC services, families and community members to have a say in the design of EL3 services. Decisions on the chosen service model in each trial site will be made by the Minister for Education, Children and Youth, taking into account recommendations from the Local Enabling Groups and advice from the ECEC Advisory Group.

Meeting times and dates for LEGs can be found under 'Workshops' at:

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

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

EL3 Advisory Group

The EL3 Advisory Group has members 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, including the establishment of services at the Trial Sites and the Research and Development Project across Hobart and Launceston.

The EL3 Advisory Group is 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 met on 18 October 2023 and discussed progress of the Local Enabling Groups across three Trial Sites – Flinders Island, Bruny Island and East Devonport.

The Group considered preliminary recommendations from the LEGs on proposed service models and provided advice in relation to these, including the identification of potential issues for the EL3 Project Teams to follow up with the LEGs.

The Group also proposed actions for the EL3 Project Team to increase communication and engagement with the ECEC sector on the initiative, particularly to help inform the design of local service delivery models at the Trial Sites, and to review the DECYP Strong Partnerships and Co-Location policies to support the next phase of implementation.

The next meeting of the EL3 Advisory Group will be on 13 December 2023.

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-mid 2024.

Findings from the Hobart and Launceston Research and Development Project, along with an independent evaluation of the EL3 Trial Sites, will inform the future expansion of early learning for three year olds for children in Tasmania.

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/