

Stakeholder Reference Group

Communique 18 – April 2022

ECU SRG membership:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	Helen Ransom, Aboriginal Program Officer – Vocational Learning
Australian Childcare Alliance	Mel Reid-Prewer
Catholic Education Tasmania	Kate Turner, Education Officer, Early Years
Centre based care - long day care	Chis Symons, Centre Director, Rainbow Childcare and Early Learning Centre
Centre based care - OSHC	Kellie Lohrey, Director, Groovy Kidz Childcare Centre & OSHC
Local Government provider representative	Kate Whitbread
Early Childhood Australia, Tasmania Branch	Annette Barwick
Early Childhood Educators of Tasmania	Sandra Mazengarb
Family Day Care Council Tasmania	Angela Stanley-Gasparin
Independent Schools Tasmania	Mark Seager, Early Years Consultant
Out of Scope services	Tracey Roberts, Co-ordinator, Possums Playcentre
United Workers Union	Gwen Alcock, National Strategic Coordinator – Early Childhood, United Workers Union
Parent/family representative	Position vacant

The ECU SRG met in April 2022. The information below reflects the discussion and outcomes from the meeting:

1 ECU Update

Vivienne Mitchell recently retired. Liz McNally has been appointed as the Operations Manager Compliance. Catherine Jay, Jacqui Brooksbank and Sarah Millier have been appointed as Regulatory Officer's. Tania Ackerly has been seconded to the Working Together project. Kellie-Anne Dixon is commencing a period of extended leave. There will be a recruitment process to fill this position until mid-2023.

2 National Workforce Strategy and Early Years and School Age Care (EYSAC) Workforce Plan

The [National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy \(2022-2031\)](#) has been developed to support the recruitment, retention, sustainability, and quality of the sector workforce. Facilitated by ACECQA, national sector stakeholders and all Australian governments have closely collaborated to co-design 'Shaping Our Future', a ten-year workforce strategy to help ensure a sustainable, high-quality children's education and care workforce.

'Shaping Our Future' provides a roadmap for ongoing collaboration and partnership between all stakeholders (jurisdictions), including governments, service providers, education and training providers, peak associations, regulatory bodies, and educators and teachers, and their representative bodies.

The 6 focus areas of the strategy include;

- Professional recognition
- Data and evidence
- Qualification and carer pathways
- Attraction and retention
- Leadership and capability
- Wellbeing

A [Summary of Actions 2022-2031](#) can be reviewed on the [ACECQA website](#).

The [EYSAC Workforce Plan](#) vision is for a 'a professional, proficient and activated Tasmanian early years and school age care workforce now and into the future'.

The 5 focus areas of the Workforce Plan include;

- Professional and activated
- Pipelines
- Pathways
- Practice
- Research and evidence

Resources relating to EYSAC Workforce Plan can be found below:

Email Kellie Watson, EYSAC Project Manager: Kellie.workforce@ecatas.org.au

EYSAC Website: <https://eysac.com.au/>

EYSAC Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/EYSAC.Tas>

EYSAC YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQDNdrjOriDQm0IH_KG_qxQ

Members of the sector can also request to be added to the EYSAC Mailchimp distribution list. Please [email Kellie Watson](#) to be added.

The next **Innovation Network** is on Thursday 2nd June at the Campbell Town Recreational Complex from 10am-3pm. Sector members are invited to attend. RSVP's should be forwarded to [Kellie Watson via email](#). RSVP to Kellie.worforce@ecatas.org.au

3 COVID notification process

Effective 1 March 2022, any COVID-19 notification received by the ECU will be closed upon receipt. These notifications will remain on our system as a reference and can be accessed when required. Providers will no longer receive email advice that these notifications have been reviewed and closed (please note this applies to COVID-19 notifications only).

Please continue to email or phone your point of contact with additional case updates when this occurs within 7 days of the original notification. These details will be noted on our system and will guide the provision of information and support. Please note that you are only required to notify the ECU if the educator or child, has attended the service in the 48 hours prior to them testing positive to COVID-19.

The 7-day approach to additional case notifications has been adopted nationally in an effort to reduce regulatory burden for approved providers and services. The ECU intends to continue this approach. Please continue to submit a notification through NQAITS for your first educator or child positive COVID-19 case. If subsequent cases are identified within a 7-day period, please continue to email your point of contact authorised officer. If additional cases are identified more than 7 days apart, please submit a new NQAITS notification. Please let your point of contact authorised officer know if you have questions about this process.

In modifying our approach to these notifications, authorised officers will be able to focus their efforts on proactive monitoring visits to services, assessment and ratings, applications, and other ECU regulatory functions.

4 2022 meetings

Next meeting is scheduled for 15 June 2022. We encourage providers, services, educators, families, and communities to contact their SRG representatives, should they wish to raise any issues for consultation or provide information to the ECU. Details of [SRG members](#) can be found on the [ECU website](#).

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Strategy and Performance
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