JULY 2025

Universal Access to Early Learning

Communique #3

Universal Access to Early Learning Advisory Group

The Universal Access to Early Learning Advisory Group met for the second time on 17 June 2025. The Advisory Group will meet quarterly throughout 2025 with the next meeting scheduled for 10 September 2025.

The Advisory Group heard updates on the EL3 Trial Sites, the EL3 Trial Site Evaluation, the Education and Care and DECYP Working Group and the Australian Government's Building Early Education Fund.

EL3 Trial Site Update

Three trial sites have commenced in Term 1, 2025 at East Devonport, Fingal and on Bruny Island, providing opportunities for local children to participate in quality early learning.

All three services have been well supported by children and families with a high proportion of utilisation across services.

- **East Devonport** – *Hub Model* – Uniting Early Learning with support from the CFLC and School, continue to provide quality early learning for three year olds in the area, co-located on the school site and near the CFLC. A survey of families indicated high satisfaction with the service. Parents also reported child growth in a range of areas including communication and language; social skills (making friends, sharing, cooperating); emotional regulation; interest in learning and exploring; and confidence and independence.
- **Break O'Day/Fingal** – *Regional Model* – the Fingal team, along with the Community Inclusion Worker (CIW), has been focussing on supporting children and families to connect with services across the region. The service facilitated an excursion at the end of term one to the Child and Family Learning Centre (CFLC) in St Helens. Excursions support as part of building children's connection to their community and linking families with services available in the region.
- **Bruny Island** – *CFLC Outreach Model* – continues to have strong support and utilisation of early years supports by families, offered at the Bruny Island District School.

DECYP is working with the following communities and the ECEC sector to continue engagement and scoping with the following trial site communities:

- **West Coast** – *Co-location Model* – scoping continues at the Zeehan Primary School for purposeful capital works to the early years space at the school. Engagement on the West Coast is ongoing to identify further suitable opportunities.
- **Flinders Island and Cape Barren Island** – *Outreach Model* – DECYP are working with the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre and the Cape Barren Island community to identify opportunities for outreach and early learning supports for children and families on Cape Barren Island, building on parent and caregiver strengths and understanding about the growth and development of their children. tunapri trips ("to understand") on truwana/Cape Barren Island will commence in July 2025 and will include fortnightly visits by the Connected Beginnings team as part of the trial. Engagement is continuing with the existing ECEC and school on Flinders Island to build on the existing partnership approach.

Working Group

ECEC and DECYP members met for the third and final time on 13 June as part of the *Education and Care and the Department for Education, Children and Young People, Schools and Child and Family Learning Centres – Together, acting for children and young people Working Group*.

Discussions explored the new Framework graphic and name, new resources and changes to the current Provisional Co-location Policy and Procedure.

Launch of the new Framework and resources via the updated webpage is planned for August 2025.

The Project team would like to thank members who represented Thrive Group Tasmania, Huon Valley Council, Lady Gowrie Tasmania, Discovery ELC, Goodstart, ECA Tas Branch, Adventure Patch, Devonport Child Care Centres, Uniting, Schools, Child and Family Learning Centres and the Education and Care Unit, as well as corporate business units including Facility Services, Working Together and Strategic Policy and Projects.

The Working Group's collective knowledge, expertise, and commitment have been instrumental in the success of this review. Together we have developed: a revised partnership framework, practical tools and an updated Co-location Policy and Procedure - each thoughtfully designed to strengthen collaborative practice. These achievements not only reflect our shared dedication but also lay the groundwork for partnerships that meaningfully support children and families.

EL3 Trial Site Evaluation

Independent consultants, Deloitte Access Economics, have finalised the EL3 Trial Site Evaluation Framework. This evaluation is an opportunity to assess the implementation and impact of the EL3 trial sites, unpacking ‘what works’ and ‘why it works’.

The evaluation will involve consultation with Local Enabling Groups (LEGs), trial site service providers, children and families, relevant community organisations, DECYP and the Advisory Group. Consultations are planned from mid-to-late August 2025 and the evaluation will conclude in October 2026.

Once the evaluation is complete, the evaluation report will be shared publicly and inform future policy developments towards Universal Access to early learning for three year olds.

Australian Government’s Building Early Education Fund

The Australian Government will invest $1 billion to establish the Building Early Education Fund (the Fund) to build early childhood education and care (ECEC) centres, including in the regions and outer suburbs. This will give more families access to quality early childhood education and care in areas where it is needed most.

During the 2025 federal election campaign the Australian Government committed funding towards new or expanded ECEC at several sites in Tasmania including in Westbury Primary School, Huonville Primary School and Malangenna Children’s Centre.

- Fact Sheet - Building Early Education Fund - Department of Education, Australian Government

Have a question or comment?

Further information including previous Communiques can be found at: 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