DECEMBER 2025

Universal Access to Early Learning

Communique #5

Universal Access to Early Learning Advisory Group

The Universal Access to Early Learning Advisory Group met for the fourth time on 3 December 2025. The Advisory Group met quarterly throughout 2025 and will meet quarterly throughout 2026, continuing to provide advice and guidance to the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) to inform the design and implementation of initiatives to increase access to early learning, towards the goal of Universal Access to early learning for three year olds.

EL3 Trial Site Update

The four current EL3 trial site services will continue in 2026 across East Devonport, Fingal, Bruny Island and Cape Barren Island, providing opportunities for local children to participate in quality early learning.

All four services have been well supported by children and families with a high level of utilisation across the trial sites.

A fifth service is set to commence in mid-2026 following upgrades to the Zeehan Primary School Launching into Learning building to allow for the EL3 trial to commence. Engagement is continuing with the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service and school on Flinders Island to build on the existing partnership approach and to investigate opportunities to support increased access to early learning on the island.

Across some trial sites there has been a shared approach alongside Working Together – *supporting early learning* to maximise the opportunity for access and inclusion for children and families.

The co-design approach of the initiative has led to a deep understanding of the early learning needs of communities and a greater understanding of community readiness and opportunities for increased access in the Tasmanian context.

Department for Education,
Children and Young People

Tasmanian Government

EL3 Trial Site Evaluation

Independent consultants, Deloitte Access Economics, are well progressed with consultations for the EL3 Trial Site Evaluation. Deloitte have completed consultations with 65 stakeholders including Local Enabling Groups (LEGs), trial site service providers, families, DECYP staff and the Universal Access to Early Learning Advisory Group. Online surveys of families and EL3 service leaders and staff have also been completed.

This evaluation is assessing the implementation and impact of the EL3 trial sites, unpacking 'what works' and 'why it works'. The evaluation will conclude in October 2026.

Australian Government's Building Early Education Fund

The Building Early Education Fund (the Building Fund) is an Australian Government initiative to provide capital funding to build new and expand existing ECEC services in areas of need, including the outer suburbs and regional Australia. The Building Fund comprises a number of different funding streams, including:

- Capital funding to states and territories to build or expand ECEC services on or near school sites, and
- ECEC sector grants to build or expand ECEC services in areas of need including:
    - a large-scale grant round for large not-for-profit providers
    - a grant round for smaller providers and in-venue Family Day Care (FDC) providers.

The Tasmanian Government is engaging with the Australian Government on implementation of the Building Fund in Tasmania, including federal election commitments for new ECEC facilities in Huonville and on the Westbury Primary School site.

The Australian Government conducted market sounding during the latter half of 2025 to seek input from not-for-profit organisations about their capacity, interest, and any constraints in delivering new or expanded ECEC services. Feedback will help shape future grant opportunities under the Building Fund.

For more information visit: https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/about/building-early-education-fund

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