



Early Childhood Education Weekly Update

11 February 2022

Dear services and providers,

What you need to know this week:

- We want your feedback about ECCMS
- CELA's Governance and Compliance session
- Minor Capital Fund Now Open and Upcoming Webinar
- Disability Inclusion Program evaluation

Sector wide updates

We want your feedback about ECCMS!

We are investigating a new program, the ECE Digital Hub, to replace the Early Childhood Contract Management System (ECCMS).

The new program will be designed with your needs in mind, and we'd love your feedback to understand:

- How ECCMS activities are currently carried out?
- What challenges are encountered in the process?
- Have you created any local hacks to address these challenges?

We will be holding feedback sessions in the coming weeks, with feedback used to help us design the new system that is fit for purpose, more user-friendly and reliable.

The session will be a 45-60 minute virtual meeting (via Zoom or Teams).

What you should do next

Please [register your interest](#) to participate in a one-to-one feedback session.

More information

Keep an eye out for further updates about this throughout the year.

CELA's Governance and Compliance session

[Community Early Learning Australia](#) (CELA) will be running a Governance and Compliance session on 15 February from 5pm - 6:30pm.

This session is focused on approved providers, boards, directors and leaders at all NSW early childhood education and care services.

What you should do next

Please [register](#) to attend.

More information

Find more information on CELA's [Governance & Compliance for NSW Early Education providers](#) program.

Community Preschool Update

Minor Capital Fund Now Open and Upcoming Webinar

Applications for the [Minor Capital Fund](#) are now open until 25 April 2022.

The Minor Capital Works Fund supports smaller-scale extensions or renovations and the recalculation of unencumbered space where it will result in an increase in community preschool places.

The maximum grant amount is \$100,000 (ex GST).

Minor Capital Works grants can be used to:

- Extend or renovate existing centre-based community preschools where it will result in an increase in community preschool places.
- Engage a certified building practitioner to re-calculate unencumbered space where it will result in an increase in community preschool places (Services in areas of need and demand that are aware they already have sufficient unencumbered space to increase their capacity without capital works are encouraged to consider this option).

More information on the application process and requirements can be found on the [Minor Capital Works Fund Guidelines webpage](#).

What you should do next

Register for the [Minor Capital Fund Application Information Session](#) Thursday 3 March 4pm-5pm.

Make an application for the [Minor Capital Fund](#) before 25 April 2022.

More Information

Contact the Capital Works team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing capital.works@det.nsw.edu.au

Community and Mobile Preschool Update

Disability Inclusion Program evaluation

We have engaged the [Australian Institute of Family Studies](#) (AIFS) and the [University of New South Wales](#) (UNSW) to undertake an independent evaluation of the [Disability Inclusion Program](#) (DIP).

Findings from this evaluation will help shape future funding decisions and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of DIP, to ensure children with disability and additional needs can participate in a quality early childhood education program on the same basis as their peers.

As part of this process, AIFS is conducting an [online survey](#) of NSW community and mobile preschools around the inclusion of children with a disability and additional needs at preschools.

The survey aims to understand how preschools are including children with additional needs, how they are using elements of the DIP to do this, and perceptions of the program's effectiveness.

It is focused on two program elements: High Level Support Needs and Sector Capacity Building.

All community and mobile preschools in NSW are invited to participate in this survey, even those who haven't engaged with the DIP.

Participation in this research is voluntary and all responses will remain confidential.

The survey is best completed by someone who is familiar with day-to-day service operations and inclusion practices, such as a Director. If these roles are shared, you can do the survey together.

There is only one survey per service and will only take 20 minutes to complete.

What you should do next

- Complete the [NSW Disability and Inclusion Program Survey](#).
- Read the [survey participant information](#).

More information

Contact AIFS 03 9214 7900 or by emailing aifs-dip-evaluation@aifs.gov.au

For more information

If you have any questions about your service operation you can contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.

For the latest COVID-19 advice please visit the [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services](#).



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