



# Early Childhood Education Update

2 March 2022

## What you need to know this week:

- Services impacted by flooding should refer to advice of local authorities, including SES to support immediate emergency response
- Reminder to report re-opening of services in NQAITS portal where there have been closures
- NSW Health alert on Japanese encephalitis virus
- The cut-off date for Quarter 2 2022 High Learning Support Needs and Minor Capital Works funding applications has been extended

Dear services and providers

It is a difficult time for many people and services across the state, with substantial flooding impacting northern NSW and weather warnings in place for areas of NSW.

This newsletter includes links to information and key contacts to support you during this time. Our Information and Enquiries team can be contacted on 1800 619 113.

## Sector wide updates

### Flood emergency

Services are encouraged to stay informed of local situations and be prepared with your emergency plans and procedures.

As with all emergency situations, you should always follow the directions of your local emergency services:

- [SES](#) - publishes current warnings and provides information and advice about staying safe in a flood.
- [Bureau of Meteorology website](#) - for up-to-date information about the weather in your area.
- [Flood warning system](#) - the Bureau has set up a flood watch for your local area.

The Commonwealth Government has distributed [information](#) for services in areas impacted by flooding including details on:

- Child Care Subsidy (CCS) payments and an [additional subsidy for temporary financial hardship](#)
- [Additional Allowable Absent Days](#)
- [Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment](#) for people impacted by a flooding event.

The NSW Government has a [Disaster Relief Grant is available for individuals](#) if your home or essential household contents were damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. In addition to the NSW Government's [grants and loans](#) for businesses affected by natural disaster, eligible NSW-based ECEC services may also be eligible for NSW Government's [storm and flood disaster recovery small business grant](#).

[Visit our website](#) to assist you to identify, plan, prepare for and manage emergencies at your service.

### **Service closures:**

Services are required to notify the department of any closures, incidents, evacuations, or damage to premises. While the regulations require this to be done within 24 hours, services should ensure the safety of children, educators and staff as a first priority.

If you can't access the NQAITS portal and you haven't yet notified us that your service is closed, please contact the department by phone 1800 619 113 or email [ececd@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au) and our team can assist.

#### **Services reopening:**

Many services have closed recently due to COVID-19, or the adverse weather conditions across the state.

For any services that have recently re-opened following a temporary closure, we ask you please report this using the [NQAITS Portal](#). View the [NQAITS Portal guide](#) and follow the steps to update the status of your service.

### **NSW Health Alert: Japanese encephalitis virus**

NSW Health has issued a [public health alert](#) for Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus, due to the current weather conditions. The disease can be particularly severe in young children, especially those under 5 years of age.

NSW Health are reminding the community to protect themselves against mosquito bites and encourages services to take extra precautions to protect children from insect bites.

You can read more [information on mosquito-borne disease and ways to protect yourself](#).

## **Community and Mobile Preschool Update**

### **2022 High Learning Support Needs and Minor Capital Works Application Cut-Off Date Extension**

The cut-off date for Quarter 2 2022 High Learning Support Needs (HLSN) and Minor Capital Works (MCW) funding applications has been extended to 5pm Friday 11 March 2021.

The new cut-off date has been updated in the 2022 Disability and Inclusion Program guidelines (including HLSN and MCW) on our [website](#).

### **What you should do next**

Applications are made in the [Early Childhood Contract Management System \(ECCMS\)](#).

### **More information**

If you have any further queries about the program guidelines or the application process, please contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or email [ece.accessandequity@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ece.accessandequity@det.nsw.edu.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](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au).

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



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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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