



# Early Childhood Education Weekly Update

19 April 2022

## What you need to know this week:

- ECE Roadshows return May 9-20 and you can [register now](#)
- The NSW Government has updated its COVID-19 factsheets to help you understand the current health advice
- Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) 2021 data collection outcomes are now available
- New Risk Management resources are available from the Office of the Children's Guardian
- Don't forget to update NQAITS when you have a change of service status
- Reminder: Early Learning Inclusion Forum to be held in May
- Applications for the Start Strong Capital Works [Minor Capital Fund](#) close on 25 April 2022

Dear services and providers

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable long weekend.

We've listened to your feedback and you'll now be seeing our weekly updates in your inbox at the start of the working week.

We welcome any suggestions on what else we can do to make sure you receive the information you need when you need it. Please let us know what's helpful by contacting us at [ececd@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au).

## Sector wide updates

### ECE Roadshows back for 2022

You can now [register to attend our free roadshow sessions](#) to be held from 9-20 May, 2022. Information about each of the sessions is now available.

Some of the session highlights include:

Get involved: Quality Support Program | 16 May, 10am – 11am

- hear directly from a service that has benefited from the Quality Support Program.
- learn about the exciting Dual Program Pathway on offer from July 2022:
- 6-week Compliance Support Pathway - to support and embed compliant practices and behaviours.
- 14-week Quality Support Pathway - to support and enable Working Towards NQS rated services to achieve Meeting NQS and above.

PD: Communicating with families | 16 May, 1pm – 2:30pm

- explore professional boundaries when communicating with families
- consider an approach to assist families when they may need to activate additional supports for themselves or their child
- discuss strategies to support difficult conversations
- consider how your community includes support for educators before, during and after difficult conversations

### Updated COVID-19 factsheets

The NSW Government has updated its COVID-19 factsheets to clarify recent changes to isolation requirements for people exposed to positive cases.

Please be reminded that you do not need to test or self-isolate if you are exposed to a positive case but have had COVID-19 in the last 12 weeks.

### **More information**

Visit the following NSW Government pages:

- [Testing positive to COVID-19 and managing COVID-19 safely at home](#)
- [Information for people exposed to COVID-19](#)
- [What COVID-19 test should I do?](#)

## **Australian Early Development Census 2021 data release**

Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) 2021 data collection outcomes are now available.

This census is an Australian Government initiative, with data collected every three years. Data is reported at the national, state and community levels. Reports detail the number and percentage of children considered to be developmentally vulnerable, at risk or on track in each of the [5 AEDC domains](#), for example, emotional maturity, language and cognitive skills. You can also compare data across different years of the census.

You may choose to use the AEDC data to support collaborative partnerships with families and communities, or to understand the strengths and/or needs in early childhood development within your community as you develop your educational program.

### **How to access the data**

- [Australian Early Development Census state and national reports](#)
- [Australian Early Development Census community data](#)

### **How to use the data**

- [Professional learning and resources](#)
- This year's AEDC research symposium is on Thursday, 11 August 2022, where you can hear about ways to engage with the data. Stay tuned for more information and registration details.
- [AEDC 2021 symposium recording](#)

### **Apply for a grant**

Apply for an [AEDC community grant](#) of up to \$15,000 to fund initiatives that address the data. Applications close Friday, 13 May 2022.

### **More information**

The AEDC team welcomes the opportunity to discuss your results with you. Contact the [AEDC NSW team](#) to set up a meeting.

## **Risk Management resources available**

The NSW Child Safe Scheme commenced in February this year and it requires child-related organisations to meet the 10 Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission. This includes assessing and managing risks of child abuse in an organisation's different settings.

The Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) has published a new, two-part resource to support the implementation of the Child Safe Standards.

The resource is designed to help identify, manage and mitigate risk of harm by outlining how risk management fits within the framework of the Child Safe Standards, and explaining how organisations can identify offending behaviours.

### **What to do next**

Visit the [OCG website](#) to download the resources.

### **More information**

Check out all [OCG resources](#) available to help you implement the Child Safe Standards.

## Reminder to update NQAITS

Services are reminded to check and, if needed, update 'Change to nature of care' and 'Change to age groups' so details are accurate. We ask you please report this using the [NQAITS Portal](#).

### What you should do next

Update the status of your service within the [NQAITS Portal](#).

### More information

If you are unable to access NQAITS to submit an update, contact us by calling 1800 619 113, or emailing [ececd@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au).

## Reminder: Early Learning Inclusion Forum

Our Early Learning team are hosting a free online Inclusion Forum on Tuesday 24 May 2022 between 8:30am – 4:30pm.

This event will support early childhood educators, teachers and directors to deliver educational programs to children with additional needs in ECE services and during transition to school to improve learning outcomes.

Join the forum to hear from:

- Dr Stuart Shanker and Dr Susan Hopkins about self-regulation
- Dr Sarah Carlon about evidence-based strategies to support children with disability
- Chris Varney about nurturing young people with Autism

The full agenda and access details will be available on the [Inclusion Forum webpage](#) closer to the event.

### What to do next

[Register your attendance](#) by Friday 6 May.

## Community Preschools

### Minor Capital Fund closes on 25 April 2022

Applications for the Start Strong Capital Works [Minor Capital Fund](#) close on 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.

Applicants can apply for grants of up to \$100,000 (ex GST) to:

- Engage a certified building practitioner to re-calculate unencumbered space and update building plans where it will result in an increase in community preschool places per day.
- Undertake smaller-scale capital works to extend or renovate an existing centre-based community preschool where it will result in an increase in community preschool places per day.

#### How to apply

[Submit your application](#) today!

NOTE: The Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program 'Minor Capital Fund' is different to the Disability and Inclusion Program '[Minor Capital Works \(MCW\) Funding](#)'. These are two separate and distinct funding initiatives operated by the department with different objectives, outcomes, and application requirements

#### More information

For more information on the application process and project requirements, visit the [Minor Capital Works Fund Guidelines webpage](#).

Contact the Capital Works team at [capital.works@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:capital.works@det.nsw.edu.au).

## Families Corner

Our last sector update included resources for parents supporting children affected by floods. Thank you to those who let us know that these links were broken, and we apologise for any inconvenience or confusion caused.

We have now linked these resources below.

### Resources for supporting parents

- [Helping children who have been affected by floods](#) – an information sheet for parents and caregivers
- [Supporting a young person after a natural disaster](#) – a website with information for family and friends supporting young people affected by a natural disaster

### 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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