



# Early Childhood Education Weekly Update

17 May 2022

## What you need to know this week:

- The Public Health Order relating to vaccinations will not be extended
- Round 2 applications for the Aboriginal Families as Teachers program are open!
- Safework NSW's next online Community of Practice is on May 25
- Start Strong Free Preschool funding allocations are being updated

Dear services and providers

There is one more week of our **Early Childhood Education Roadshows** so don't miss out! [Register now](#) and join us to talk best practice and regulatory requirements, and to hear updates on program and policy initiatives.

## Sector wide updates

### Public Health Order relating to vaccinations will not be extended

The Public Health Order relating to vaccination of education and care workers will not be extended beyond 13 May 2022.

In line with broader community settings, ECE services will now move to a risk-based assessment approach for their workforce, meaning that services may choose to implement their own policies around staff vaccination.

NSW Health continues to recommend two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination and a booster shot to reduce the risk of transmission within the community.

#### **More information**

For more information on COVID-19 guidelines, visit the [COVID safety](#) and [COVID-19 vaccination information](#) web pages.

## **Aboriginal Families as Teachers program: Round 2 applications are open!**

Applications for Round 2 of the Aboriginal Families as Teachers program are now open until 13 June 2022.

The Aboriginal Families as Teachers (AFaT) program aims to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to build a rich home learning environment.

To be eligible to apply for Round 2, applicants must be based in the Murray or Richmond Valley/Tweed regions and plan to deliver a program in eligible communities that meets one of the following criteria:

- Be a community based or not-for-profit organisation.
- Be an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation or business.
- Meet the qualifications requirements listed below for the development and delivery of early childhood education activities under this program.

#### **What to do next**

[Applications are now open](#) and close on 13 June 2022.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in this opportunity, please share this email with them.

### **More information**

More information can be found on the [Aboriginal Families as Teachers](#) web page.

## **SafeWork NSW's online Community of Practice**

SafeWork NSW is holding an online Community of Practice event for the early childhood education and care sector on 25 May, 10am-12pm.

Please join SafeWork NSW to hear about the latest work health and safety information, resources and news for the health care and social assistance sector. This online event is valuable for those working in the sector to gather and share experiences, collaborate on the development of resources, hear the latest news and compliance information from SafeWork NSW.

### **What to do next**

[Register now](#) to join this online event.

## **Community and Mobile Preschools update**

### **Start Strong Free Preschool funding allocations**

Thank you for completing the March Census. The Department is working through the data to review Start Strong Free Preschool funding allocations.

Your service's Start Strong Free Preschool funding will be based on whichever are higher between August 2021 and March 2022 enrolments.

Services with an increased funding allocation can anticipate a payment to be processed prior to Term 3 for Terms 1 and 2. Payments for Terms 3 and 4 will be

made at the commencement of each term and will reflect the revised funding amount.

## Don't forget

- Applications for the [Aboriginal Early Childhood Education Scholarships and Early Childhood Education Scholarships](#) are now open until 7 June 2022. Apply now via [SmartyGrants](#).
- [Register now](#) to attend this week's Early Childhood Education Roadshow sessions.
- Applications for Round 2 of the [Ninganah No More](#) program are now open until 10 June 2022.
- [Register now](#) for the Australian Childhood Foundation's Responding to Trauma training.

## What's new on the web

Visit our recently updated [Reporting obligations to other agencies](#) web page to ensure your service is aware of all obligations relating to child safety, child protection and infectious diseases.

View our updated [Resources for organisations](#) to support child safe practices in your service.

NSW Government has updated the [Testing positive to COVID-19 and managing COVID-19 safely at home](#) web page.

The recent updates include new information regarding:

- People at higher risk of severe illness who test positive for COVID-19 will be sent an SMS by Healthdirect Australia about discussing antivirals with their general practitioners (GPs).
- Accessing the Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment.
- Contacting your GP if you still have symptoms on Day 7 since testing positive to COVID-19.
- Advice to wait 3 months post-infection to receive a booster vaccination or additional winter booster vaccination.

#### **What to do next**

Visit the [Testing positive to COVID-19 and managing COVID-19 safely at home](#) web page to access the latest information.

## **Families Corner**

We're sharing resources made especially for families to increase their knowledge on the early childhood education and care sector. This is something you can take and pass on to families via your own communication channels.

- StartingBlock.gov.au has created [a list of tips](#) for families on supporting children to settle into an early childhood education and care service

- Our [Nationally regulated services](#) webpage can help families understand how regulation works and the Department of Education's role as the regulator for services in NSW

## 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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