



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children



Making news this fortnight...

Terms of Reference (ToR) released for Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) inquiry into early childhood education and care; latest *National Quality Framework* (NQF) Snapshot released; funding boost to children's hearing services; draft teacher workforce action plan released; and new insights revealed on participatory child protection.

Scroll down to read more, find the latest in state and territory news, and discover what ECA teams have been doing.

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ToR released for ACCC inquiry

The ACCC has released the ToR for its inquiry into the rising costs of operating early childhood education and care services across Australia. The final report is due by 31 December 2023, and an interim report will be delivered by 30 June 2023. Read the terms [here](#).



Latest NQF Snapshot released

The latest quarterly NQF Snapshot from ACECQA shows more early childhood education and care services are either meeting or exceeding the *National Quality Standard*. The snapshots provide an overview of Australia's early childhood sector. Access the snapshot [here](#).



Funding boost to children's hearing services

The Australian Government has announced \$6.5 million of funding to set up three new facilities to address gaps in hearing services available for children with hearing loss in New South Wales and Tasmania. [Learn more](#).

Draft teacher workforce action plan released

The draft National Teacher Workforce Action Plan is now available for public consultation. The draft action plan outlines 28 proposed actions to help tackle the teacher shortage. To review and submit your feedback, follow [this link](#).



New insights on participatory child protection

A recent study presents the Australian child protection practitioners' understanding of children's participation in the child protection process. The research noted a wide gap between the theory of participatory child protection and the way it is practiced. Details [here](#).

State and territory news

ACT

The ACT Government released *Best Start for Canberra's Children: The First 1000 Days Strategy*, outlining its vision for working with community and service partners to ensure early support for children and families to improve their long-term health and wellbeing. Explore [here](#).

Applications are now open for the ACT Government's \$2 million grants to support healthy weight and activity in children and young people, as well as targeted support for social connection in priority groups. [Apply now](#).

NSW

As part of the Australian Government's \$9 million Online Safety Grants Program, KIDS Foundation's 'Netys the Trusted eSafety Friend' program has been awarded funding worth \$381,147 to empower more children and young people to stay safe online. Read [here](#).

The NSW Government will be investing \$23.5 million to provide aspiring early childhood educators scholarships of up to \$3,000 for Certificate III and up to \$5,000 for a Diploma qualification in early childhood education and care. [Learn more](#).

SA

SA councils can now apply for the Local Government Early Childhood Community Innovation Grants, a one-off funding program with total funding of \$180,000 available. The grants will support councils in the delivery of evidence-informed innovation and local and community-led programs. [Apply now](#).

TAS

The Tasmanian Government has announced 15 additional schools are to join the School Lunch Pilot Program, giving more children access to fresh, nutritious food. Details [here](#).

Premier Jeremy Rockliff has announced a new website to publish updates and timelines around its Commission of Inquiry, which is investigating the Tasmanian Government's responses to child sexual abuse in institutional settings. [Learn more](#).

VIC

The annual Safe Steps Walk Against Family Violence in Victoria will be held on Friday 25 November 2022, as an in-person event. By participating, supporters help promote the message across Victoria that family violence and violence against women is not okay. Learn how to get involved [here](#).

WA

The WA Government has committed \$100,000 in funding over 12 months for a specialised child trauma training program delivered by the Australian Centre for Child Protection Western Australia. [Read more](#).

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An empathetic guide to children's emotional health and wellbeing

Teach children how to mindfully explore and express their emotions. Empower them to develop their authentic inner selves, let go of expectations and simply be who they are.

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DISCOVER THE SERIES

The advertisement features a blue background with a stylized graphic of two overlapping faces in red and blue. On the right, there are four book covers from the series: 'Being with Our Feelings', 'What if All the Trees Were Away?', 'The Red String', and 'I Don't Want to be Me'. A hand icon points to the 'DISCOVER THE SERIES' button.

ONLINE LEARNING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS

Early Childhood Australia
Learning Hub

The advertisement has a green background with white line art of a person reading a book and various icons like a clock, a leaf, and a speech bubble. A blue circle contains the text 'ONLINE LEARNING FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS'. At the bottom, there is a yellow bar with the Early Childhood Australia Learning Hub logo and name.

Online Learning for early childhood professionals

Access more than 80 quality-assured, flexible online modules, from leadership and documentation to pedagogy and wellbeing. Ideal for educators, teachers and professionals working with young children. [Sign up](#) today and get 10% off*.

*Offer expires at 11.59pm (AEST) 23 November 2022.



New on The Spoke

Digital documentation apps record children's learning, improve family engagement and ease the workload of educators. But do they really do all this and at what cost? [Read](#) Darren Halim's reflection on finding the right balance between digital documentation and interacting with children.



2023 Early Years Planner

Our popular planners for early childhood educators and teachers are back! The practical layout includes writing space for recording reflections, notes, meetings, focuses, interactions and learning experiences. [Get your planner](#) today.



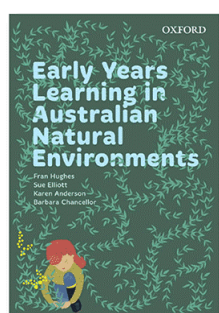
Children's voices in Statement of Philosophy

Read Be You's latest story, where a service reviewing their statement included everyone's voice, including a significant contribution from children. [Does your Statement of Philosophy reflect children's voices?](#)



Register today for AJEC

Registrations are now open for the 2023 AJEC Research Symposium (9–10 February), which will explore the theme of 'Early childhood knowledges, generations and time'. We invite students, academics, researchers and practitioners at all levels to join in online to share and listen to cutting-edge knowledge. [Book now](#).



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