

Quality and compliance in practice

We want every child in early childhood education to safely grow, learn and thrive in their early childhood service.

This issue we are focusing on COVID-19 pandemic, which we know has created many challenges for the sector throughout the past two years.

Services across New South Wales have shown resilience in navigating these challenges as you've continued to provide quality education, care and support to children and their families.

In this edition, you'll find stories, information and resources to support your service, as we continue navigate the pandemic and use COVID-safe practices.

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

Responses to COVID

Dr Wendy Saeme Lee: COVID, its impact, and where to next?

Lecturer in Early Childhood Education at the University of Sydney, Dr Wendy Saeme Lee, sat down with us to talk about the lasting impact of COVID-19 on children, the ECE sector and key lessons that have come from this pandemic.

[Keep reading](#)



Building stronger family and community connections

Over the past two years, Oakville Preschool Learning Centre on Dharug country has navigated the challenges of COVID-19, building stronger connections with their families and community along the way.

[Keep reading](#)

Maintaining strong partnerships to deliver culture and language education for children

May Murray Early Learning Centre has continued to nurture a strong partnership with the Gujaga Foundation through the pandemic, which supports their children to engage with Dharawal culture and language.

[Keep reading](#)



Supporting children's growth through outdoor play

Warrawee Care Centre focuses on delivering an engaging outdoor play program that supports children's development.

[Keep reading](#)



Children thrive with a successful transition to school program

Faced with challenges due to COVID-19 in 2021, Mountain Preschool Lowanna Inc. was still able to maintain their Transition to School program, enabling each child to feel ready for Kindergarten.

[Keep reading](#)



Authorised Officer shares COVID insights

Angela Marton shares her experience navigating the COVID-19 pandemic as an Authorised Officer based in Parramatta, within the Western Metro team.

[Keep reading](#)

Children's safety at the centre



As we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, maintaining COVID-smart policies and procedures at your service is important to minimise the spread and allow a quick response to a positive case.

[Keep reading for more info on maintaining COVID-smart policies and procedures](#)

Sector updates

More space for preschoolers to learn

Penrith City Council's Tandara Children's Centre was a recent recipient of Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program funding which has allowed them to increase their floor space, add new lighting, and refurbish the bathrooms to create additional preschool places.

When asked what children love the most about the new play spaces the most popular response was "I like our new preschool, it's fun and we like playing with our friends".

The educators shared they were eager to setup inspiring and exciting play spaces with a variety of resources and experiences for children.

Undertaking a refurbishment while our service remained operational proved challenging, though the benefits of the additional space provided staff and children with new opportunities to explore and learn.

This provoked interest, questions, and creativity amongst groups of children as they explored their new space.

The Start Strong Capital Works Grants Program is still open!

Round 2 of the Minor Capital Fund open until 25 April 2022

- Grants of up to \$100,000 (ex GST) are available to eligible applicants, including an option to seek funding for recalculating unencumbered space where it will result in an increase in licensed community preschool places.
- Register for the [Minor Capital Fund Application Information Session](#) Thursday 3 March 4pm- 5pm.

Major Capital Fund

- Expression of Interest - Stage 1 applications close **4 March 2022**.
- The Major Capital Fund supports eligible services to create additional community preschool places through new builds, extensions and renovations of centre-based community preschools in areas of need and demand.

Crisis Fund

- Expression of Interest - Stage 1 applications close **30 June 2022**.

- The Crisis Fund supports eligible services to maintain and create community preschool places where there is an urgent need for capital works in [eligible circumstances](#).

Support now available for Major Capital & Crisis Fund Stage 2 – Invitation to Apply (ITA)

The Department has invested in professional support for applicants that are invited to proceed to Stage 2 – ITA, to assist services in managing application requirements.

ITA applicants can opt-in to receive independent support to assist with revising project budgets, timelines and forecasting of preschool places.

Comprehensive information will be provided directly to applicants that progress to the ITA stage.

More Information

More information on each fund can be found on the [website](#).

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



Image: Tandara Children's Centre refurbish space.

ACECQA extends recognition for equivalent early childhood teacher

ACECQA recently confirmed an extension of a transitional measure, that a person who holds ALL of the following will be recognised as equivalent to an early childhood teacher:

- a primary or secondary teaching qualification AND
- teacher registration in Australia (called 'accreditation' in New South Wales) AND
- an ACECQA approved certificate III level (or higher) early childhood education and care qualification.

At the end of 2023 this transitional measure is scheduled to cease, however individuals who have obtained this combination of qualifications before the end of 2023 will continue to be recognised under this provision.

Find more information on the [Recognition as an equivalent early childhood teacher webpage](#).

Child Safe Standard resources

The Office of the Children's Guardian is providing more resources on the Child Safe Standards to support organisations working with children to create, maintain and improve their child safe practices.

- Watch the [Child Safe Standards and the Child Safe Scheme video](#).
- Visit the [Child Safe Standards webpage](#) for more resources.

Families corner

Each month 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 your current and/or prospective families via your own communication channels.

Early childhood Digital Learning Packs

Families can now access the [early childhood guided learning packages](#).

- The [Kangaroo and Emu packs](#) provide easy-to-use timetabled activities for families to support continuity of learning for children who are unable to attend their usual early childhood services.
- Two weeks' worth of timetabled learning activities are published each fortnight throughout term 1, and all activities link to the Early Year Learning Framework for Australia.

StartingBlocks website

With the upcoming changes with the CCS, families can now visit the new [StartingBlocks](#) website and find information on:

- find local services and view their vacancies, costs, quality ratings and inclusions
- compare services side-by-side
- estimate their out-of-pocket costs
- get information and advice about education, children's development, and parenting.

Know someone who would like to receive this newsletter? Send them this [sign-up form](#).



Copyright © 2022 Early Childhood Education, All rights reserved.

All services and providers

Our mailing address is:

Early Childhood Education

Level 8

10 Valentine Ave

Parramatta, NSW 2150

Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

[Unsubscribe from this list](#)