



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children



Making news this fortnight...

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the October Budget 2022–23; 'building the future' to wrap up Early Learning Matters Week; Australian Government funding to deliver free online parenting resources; the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (the National Centre) release draft Five-year Strategy; new resources on the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) now online; an expert article on what makes a good ECEC physical environment; take the Early Learning Matters Week survey; and the latest flooding alerts.

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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October Budget 2022-23 a positive step

ECA welcomes the October 2022-23 Budget as a positive step towards a longer-term vision for early childhood education and care (ECEC). However, the sector needs a well-supported and thriving workforce for it to help solve the broader workforce participation problem. Download our latest [media release](#) and the [ECA budget summary and response](#).



Building the future

To celebrate the wrap-up of Early Learning Matters Week, ECA invited children to join in a 'Build the Future' learning activity and build 'a place that's great for children'. We also held an event at the Australian Parliament House where the children shared their capable and smart thinking with special guests including the Minister for Early Childhood Education, the Hon Dr Anne Aly. View some of their creations through [this](#) Twitter thread.



How did you celebrate Early Learning Matters Week?

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Early Learning Matters Week 2022. By completing [this](#) short survey your comments and feedback will help us create a stronger campaign for 2023. We look forward to celebrating with you again next year.



The National Centre release draft Five-year Strategy

The National Centre is calling for community feedback about its draft Five-year Strategy and plans to urgently tackle the problem of child sexual abuse. Review the draft strategy [here](#) and provide feedback via an anonymous survey [here](#).



ECA's new resources on the Child Information Sharing Scheme

ECA has developed new resources to support early childhood services to put the Child Information Sharing Scheme (CISS) into practice. [Visit](#) our new CISS webpage, with short videos and practical case studies on CISS in practice.



What makes a good physical environment for early learning?

Research shows physical environments have a major influence on children's health, wellbeing, development and learning. In [this](#) article, the authors share four important features for parents to look for in a service's physical environment.



Funding to deliver free online parenting resources

The Australian Government is providing \$40.6 million to Triple P International to help them deliver free online parenting education and mental health support to Australian parents and carers of children under 12. [Learn more](#).



Emergency flood support

The Australian Government has announced emergency flood support until 8 November for more Local Government Areas in NSW and Victoria. While the emergency period in other regions of NSW, Victoria and Tasmania ended on 1 November 2022, support is still available. For more details including support for services and families, follow [this](#) link.

State and territory news

NSW

As part of a \$46.8 million investment over four years by the NSW Government, 87 trained School Wellbeing Nurses are now providing care and support to students in approximately 300 rural, regional and metropolitan schools across NSW. Details [here](#).

Applications for the revamped Quality and Participation Grants are open until 14 November 2022 to support eligible ECEC services improve learning environments, increase community outreach and meet costs associated with implementing recent reforms. [Learn more](#).

NT

The Northern Territory Education and Care Awards have been announced. The awards celebrate an educator, service or program that demonstrates an exceptional commitment to improving the lives and outcomes of NT children and their families. View the recipients' list [here](#).

Qld

From 2023, the Qld Government will be offering low-cost kindergarten for many families as part of a \$1 billion investment in kindergarten. About 40,000 families will benefit from either free or cheaper kindergarten. More details [here](#).

The Qld Government has released some new video case studies to address their annual regulatory priorities of adequate supervision and positive interactions with children. Explore these and other regulatory resources on their website [here](#).

SA

The SA Government is boosting vocational pathways into ECEC in preparation for the introduction of universal three-year-old preschool. Findon Technical College will offer vocational programs for careers in ECEC. Details [here](#).

SA Premier Peter Malinauskas MP to attend the Margaret Trembath Research Scholarship presentation – 'Our Stories: Children and Celebrations' – about how celebrations are talked about, defined and enacted by children and their educators in early childhood settings. Register [here](#).

Vic.

The Vic. Government is helping families across the state to access better kindergarten services through the latest round of the Building Blocks grants. The government has committed to invest \$14.7 million to build four new kindergartens and help four existing services expand. [Read more](#).

The Mental Health in Primary Schools program, which received \$200 million to expand to every government and low-fee non-government primary school in Victoria, will be scaled up across the state from next year. Details [here](#).

The Vic. Government has committed to invest \$77.3 million towards the Health and Education Recovery Fund, which will include support to an estimated 320 schools affected by the floods, alongside a support package for TAFE students. [Learn more](#).

WA

The Specialist Learning Program (SLP) for students with autism in WA will be expanded to eight additional locations starting with the rollout to Hampton Park Primary School and Hampton Senior High School in Term 2 next year. Read [here](#).

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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'. [Register](#) online today.



ECA Shop: Family Diversity resources

Find resources to support early childhood services in taking the first steps to reduce disadvantage for all families. Create meaningful opportunities for children to explore, engage and ask questions about family diversity. Explore [here](#).



New on *The Spoke*

At the 2022 ECA National Conference, there was a noticeable interest in what informs our identity. Conference presenter Lizzy Maughan shares with us their insights and discussions during the #ECAConference in [this](#) blog.



Wellbeing Plan for Educators

Paying attention to our strengths means we can be more aware of them and use them when facing challenges or to achieve goals. [Explore](#) Be You's Wellbeing Plan for Educators.



Essential resources for early childhood services

The different ECA Boxes of Provocations will provoke deeper thinking and discussion among educators. Use the cards to open conversations with your team. [Get your box today!](#)

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