



At the recent ECEC & SAC Round table held on the 19th August one of the topics discussed by sector representatives and RTO's was the new training package released in July 2013. The main focus of discussions was around the electives that can be delivered as part of a training package.

The previous package had recommended electives whilst the new one doesn't. Under the new Cert III package 15 core units and 3 electives are required, under the new Diploma course 23 core units and 5 electives are required.

The meeting agreed on two key points:

1. That as a profession there were electives that should be promoted as Highly Recommended & Recommended.
2. That for a variety of reasons there does need to be choice of electives offered to students rather than an agreed list. Reasons include; currently trainees can select electives for an RPL process, some electives might be more appropriate for some educators, but not others, e.g. FDC units, and, the need to factor in a services ability to meet NQF requirements and how this could impact on which electives would be more useful for their educators.

#### **Cert III agreed recommendations**

##### **Highly recommended:**

CHCECE006 Support behaviour of children and young people  
CHCORG303C Participate effectively in the work environment  
CHCECE026 Work in partnership with families to provide appropriate education and care for children

##### **Recommended:**

CHCECE014 Comply with FDC administration requirements  
CHCECE012 Support children to connect with their world

#### **Diploma agreed recommendations**

##### **Highly recommended:**

The 'leadership cluster' of electives for existing workers  
CHCORG624E Provide leadership in community services delivery  
CHCORG627B Provide mentoring support to colleagues  
CHCPOL504B Develop and implement policy

##### **Recommended:**

for new workers/students  
CHCPOL403C Undertake research activities  
CHCCOM504A Develop, implement and promote effective workplace communications  
CHCINF407D Meet information needs of the community  
CHCORG428A Reflect on and improve own professional practice

#### **CHCECE206** *Work in partnership with families to provide appropriate education and care for children.* Sector and RTO Recommendations to services

The meeting recognised potential challenges for students to be able to demonstrate competencies in this unit because of some of the conditions that services put around students' contact with families.

It was agreed that the sector should encourage services to take on more of a mentoring approach with students and their communication with families. Services should also recognise the difference between Work Experience students and Certificate III students and their prac placement requirements.

#### **Teach out period**

The teach out period for students enrolled in the old training package is 6 months from the date of release, except where in exceptional circumstances the RTO may need to demonstrate to ASQA that a further extension is required.

#### **Skill Gaps**

There will be significant skill gaps between the previous and new training packages and whilst the ISC is not producing a mapping document DEEWR are producing an RPL mapping tool that will be available online soon. In addition to this ECA are also putting in a submission to Skills Tas to work with RTO's to map skill gaps.

The other emerging issue is that a trainee who has already received funding for Certificate III will not be eligible for funding to cover skill gaps. To support the sector, ECA will be applying for skill gap funding to cover additional costs incurred by these students.

#### **and for those who want more detail...**

The 2nd page of this newsletter highlights some of the discussions held on each of the electives and the reasons why the above recommendations were made.

The following notes were taken on the elective discussions held at the meeting:

### **Cert III**

**CHCECE006 *Support behaviour of children and young people*** – the meeting agreed that this unit is vital for all students and should be Highly Recommended for all Certificate III students.

**CHCORG303C *Participate effectively in the work environment*** – this is a generic unit rather than ECEC specific. This unit covers teamwork and this is not covered elsewhere in the core Cert III units. The meeting felt it would be useful for most educators, whilst recognising that existing educators may not need this one.

**CHCECE026 *Work in partnership with families to provide appropriate education and care for children.*** This unit does fit into the Diploma neatly with programming but the sector representatives believed it also is appropriate for Certificate III and under the packaging rules it is possible to use this unit as an elective. This was considered particularly important given that there is nothing in Certificate III re- working effectively with families – an essential competence for Cert III educators. The closest thing to it is Element 6 of Certificate III CHCECE005 *Provide Care for Toddlers and Babies* – however, the meeting felt that this does not adequately replace CHCCRF301E *Work effectively with families to care for the child.*

**CHCECE012 *Support children to connect with their world.*** Focus is on sustainable practices; however, this is now strongly interwoven through other units, therefore this unit falls into the recommended rather than highly recommended category.

### **Other elective considered:**

**CHCPRT003 *Work collaboratively to maintain an environment safe for children and young people.*** This unit replaces both CHCCRF301E *Work effectively with families to care for the child* and CHCPROT429A *Work collaboratively to maintain a child safe environment.* It is designed for those who work within an established child protection framework.

### **Diploma**

The decisions around diploma electives was based on previous concerns and issues raised by the sector. The meeting also felt that some electives were more suited to existing workers whilst others were more suited to new workers or students.

To address the expressed need for leadership training a good cluster of units to meet this need would be:

**CHCORG624E *Provide leadership in community services delivery***

**CHCORG627B *Provide mentoring support to colleagues***

**CHCPOL504B *Develop and implement policy***

Based on Clare Warden's promotion of the value of action research:

**CHCPOL403C *Undertake research activities***

To address sector concerns with communication skills:

CHCCOM504A Develop, implement and promote effective workplace communications

CHCINF407D Meet information needs of the community

To promote professional development:

CHCORG428A *Reflect on and improve own professional practice*

**Cheers**  
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