



Skills Plan Progress

The following projects have been identified as priorities for the first half of 2014:

**Communicating with Families*, continuing to improve work place literacy in the three pilot services and applying for funding to expand the project to services in the North and North West. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of this great initiative or would like access to the resources being developed and placed on line through Alfresco.

*Strategies and partnerships to improve the promotion, recruitment and retention of quality staff to the Early Childhood Education and Care sector. Partnerships have been established with college teachers, Beacon Foundation, Department of Education (Guaranteeing Futures & School Based Apprenticeships) and the Mentoring Australian Apprentices Project (MAAP). Recruitment materials and resources are being prepared and shared with schools around Tasmania.

*Continuing to improve communication and networking across the sector. This will occur through the Newsletter, Round Table and Regional meetings and through the creation of a Skills Plan website providing a 'one stop shop' for resources.

Tasmanian Jobs Programme

Tasmanian businesses that provide jobs to people who have been unemployed for at least six months may be able to get financial assistance from the Australian Government. The Tasmanian Jobs Programme offers an incentive to employers who provide full time, ongoing work to eligible job seekers.

The programme began on 1 January 2014 and will support up to 2000 Tasmanian jobs.

A one-off incentive payment of \$3,250 (GST inclusive) will be paid to an employer at the end of six months for each eligible job seeker continuously employed full time over that period.

More information available at <http://employment.gov.au/tasmanian-jobs-programme>

Financial Literacy Resource

With funding provided by the Australian Government Child Care Services Support Program (CCSSP), Network SA have developed a financial literacy video resource to support directors and management committees of community based child care centres to read and understand financial reporting requirements.

Their aim is to make this video resource a valuable tool for community based child care employers, directors and committees. The link is: <http://youtu.be/seWwQaCVSCQ>

Grant Alert

Applications for the 2014 Commonwealth Bank Community Grants program are now open. This year they will award \$2 million in individual grants of up to \$10,000 to organisations supporting children and youth up to the age of 21 years. Applications close: 5:00pm AEDT Friday, 14 March 2014

Website of the month



http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/Asthma_Friendly_Child_Care.aspx

Dates to remember

March

5 Roundtable - The Grange, Campbell Town

April

11 Speaker Forum - The Environment as a Teacher, Sustaining Connections through the Early Years

May

27 ECA Statewide

June

4 Roundtable - The Grange, Campbell Town

20 HESTA ECEC Awards—nominations close

September

4-7 ECA National Conference

17 Roundtable - The Grange, Campbell Town



Nominations are now open for the HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care Awards!

Know someone in early childhood education and care who deserves an award? Nominate them by 20 June 2014.

Choose from three award categories that provide deserved recognition and opportunities to nominees and amazing prizes.

Make sure you are part of the HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care Awards. Proudly supported by Early Childhood Australia, presented by HESTA. Visit www.earlychildhoodawards.com.au for more information

Cheers
Roger