



**Early Childhood
Australia**
A voice for young children

Tasmanian ECEC & SAC Skills Plan Newsletter August 2013

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

ECA Tasmania is the local branch of Early Childhood Australia, the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood field.

Skills Plan Progress

Communicating with Families Project

The 3 pilot services are scoping out their learning goals for the project and staff from 6 services will soon commence a course at TasTAFE titled Facilitate Adult Learning & Development. All resources and support materials for this project are being placed online through Alfresco and will be available to all services in Tasmania.

Guide to Training

A focus group meeting has been held and each service has been given the opportunity to have input in to the development of the resource that will be a guide to training & assessment. We hope to be able to select an author for this document soon and aim to have the resource available before the end of the year.

Career Awareness Program

In the south we are working with the high school pathway planners to run a 2 day orientation and information session for students interested in careers in the Education & Care sector. Students have to write a brief expression of interest before 2 or 3 from each high school will be selected to participate in a day at college & TAFE and a day in a service.

Career Brochure

A brochure is being developed that will be distributed to schools and colleges and can used by services recruiting staff. It will provide a range of information, including personal attributes required to be an educator, qualification and career pathways and links to further information. We have received a grant from DEEWR to print the brochure.

Professional word of the Month - Perception - It is the organization, identification, and interpretation of sensory information in order to represent and understand the environment. To help develop visual perception in young children try the activities at <https://sites.google.com/site/smallschoolot/information-for-parents/visual-perception>

Sector Website of the month



Australian Children's
Education & Care
Quality Authority™

Subscribe to ACECQA's regular electronic newsletters

<http://www.acecqa.gov.au/subscribe.aspx>

Dates to remember

August

- 19 **Roundtable** - Campbelltown 10-3
- 29 **ECA AGM** Tramsheds Launceston 10.30

September

- 10 **Training Package Implementation Workshop**
Hobart (mainly for RTO's)
(Register at www.cshisc.com.au)
- 11 **Foundation Skills Workshop**
Hobart (RTO's)
(Register at www.cshisc.com.au)

Tax Time

As it is now time to start lodging income tax returns, this provides a good opportunity for early childhood education teachers to consider their eligibility for the HECS-HELP Benefit for early childhood education teachers.

The HECS-HELP Benefit for early childhood education teachers reduces the Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) debt of early childhood education teachers who work in areas of high need based on postcode location.

The benefit provides early childhood education teachers with a reduction in their HELP debt up to a maximum amount each year. For 2012-13 the maximum amount is \$1,795.41.

An additional HECS-HELP Benefit for education graduates of up to \$1,683.19 for 2012-13 may also be available.

Further information, including the eligibility requirements and postcodes, is available on the DEEWR website (www.deewr.gov.au) - then type HECS HELP into the 'Find' field.

Cheers
Roger

ECA Tasmania Project Development Officer
roger.skillsplantas@earlychildhood.org.au