



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 have scoped out their learning goals for the project and staff from 5 services have completed their Literacy Mentor training. A list of resource materials that have already been developed will be listed in the next newsletter and available to all services through Alfresco by the end of October.

Career Brochure

A final draft of our 'Education & Care Services' career brochure has been written. It is with the graphic designers at the moment and we hope to have this printed by the end of October.

Future Funding

A project proposal has been submitted to Skills Tas to try and secure funding that will provide an additional 2 years of support to implementing the Skills Plan. Funding has been sought to continue the quarterly roundtables and regional forums, to map the skill gaps between the old and new training packages, build a 'Skills Plan' website, run a follow up workshop for RTO's and FDC leaders, develop workforce planning tools for the sector and to fund a project officer to liaise and communicate with the sector, manage existing projects and source additional funding.

The Rosemary Payne Prize in Early Childhood Education was approved by the academic senate on the 19/7/13. It is now advertised on the UTas prizes website at

<http://www.studentcentre.utas.edu.au/prizes/AwardDetails.aspx?AwardId=2431> .

DEEWR Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Grants Initiative

The new RPL Assessor Toolkits for the Certificate III and the Diploma in Children's Services have been updated to reflect the new VET qualifications and have been posted on the DEEWR website at <http://deewr.gov.au/recognition-prior-learning-toolkit>.

Grant Alert

The [Tasmanian Early Years Foundation](http://www.earlyyears.org.au) is inviting eligible organisations to apply for funding in their latest annual grant program. Applications close on 1 November 2013.

Eligible applicants: not-for-profit organisations, service providers from all tiers of government & for-profit enterprises (restrictions apply).

Eligible projects: Projects must meet the Foundation's objective and build capacity through:

* Promoting early attachment *Supporting fathers and male caregivers *Promoting optimal infant health, and
*Supporting young children and families to learn about sustainable environments.

Grants are available in two tiers: up to \$5 000 (GST exclusive) & between \$5 001 and \$25 000 (GST exclusive)

How to apply: Applications should be made on the application form. Copies of the form and guidelines are available by visiting www.earlyyears.org.au or phoning (03) 6232 7468.

Dates to remember

October

30 Roundtable - 'Career Pathways, Planning & Options for school leavers'. Open to all the sector

November

16 ECA Forum - Hobart - registration now open
www.conferencedesign.com.au/eca2013/registration.html

December

19 School term ends

Professional word of the Month - Holistic Learning

Considers the "whole" child and includes the consideration of all developmental areas to be engaged within each interaction and experience provided for the child. Children learn best through hands-on experiences which offer the ability to foster their natural motivations to investigate and discover the world around them based on their interests.

Educators recognise that children learn and develop in their own time and at their own pace. They understand that all children are strong, competent and unique. They know that children are creative and independent thinkers, great problem solvers and communicators who learn and grow through play.

Additional reading on holistic learning has been emailed with the newsletter.

Cheers
Roger

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