



## Minutes

### Early Learning Subcommittee Meeting

Nov 16, 2023, 7.30 pm,

online via Zoom

Council's Early Learning Subcommittee is a forum for parents and carers whose children are attending (or about to attend) a playschool or preschool in the ACT. The subcommittee advocates for parents in early learning and public education, and promotes the benefits of quality early years learning. Download previous minutes here (or registration): [Meeting summaries](#).

#### Open 7.35 pm

MS welcomed attendees, Acknowledgement of Country

Announcements: Council's [free training](#) for members

#### 1. Early Childhood [Workforce Strategy](#)

On October 12, 2023 the ACT Government released the new early childhood education and care workforce strategy, *Valuing Educators, Values Children: A Workforce Strategy for the ACT Early Childhood Education and Care Profession (2023-25)*. The Strategy outlines a range of actions to be delivered over the next few years, across four focus areas: sector support, capability building, career pathways and professional recognition.

Quality early childhood education plays a critical role in supporting children to learn and thrive.

#### 2. Education (Early Childhood) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

On October 26, 2023 the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Yvette Berry introduced the Education (Early Childhood) Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 to amend the Education Act 2004. The Bill responds to the Government's 2020 ten-year plan for early childhood education and care in *Set up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT* and paves the way for the registration of Early Childhood Teachers in the ACT.

Through this Bill, the ACT will be the first Australian jurisdiction to enshrine access to two years of quality early childhood education prior to formal schooling in law.

The amendments include a new chapter in the Education Act 2004 dedicated to early childhood education and recognition in law that children start learning from birth.

The Bill will also amend the ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act 2010 to enable the professional registration of early childhood teachers.

Currently, the Teacher Quality Institute regulates the professional registration of teachers in primary and secondary schools. This Bill will introduce a new category of Teacher Quality Institute registration for teachers working in early childhood education and care settings whose expertise is teaching children in their brain building years.

[Explanatory statements](#) to the amendment.



## 7. ACT Koori Preschools Tour

Council invited families to join Koori Preschool Educators and Education Directorate representatives in September for a tour of the Koori preschool at Narrabundah. There are five Koori preschools across the ACT where co-design with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities has resulted in the development of a *Koori Pre Cultural Safety Framework*, *Koori Pre Curriculum* and resources that support the evolution of Koori Preschool in the ACT. View the [Koori Preschool video](#).

## 8. School Parent Communications

School communications have become more varied with the range of electronic options. P&C communications can get lost or add to the potentially confusing array. This variety of options can make communication planning complex. What works best for families, is it working?

A visual representation of available options can help associations, identify options and consider implications. Is there a single contact sheet for school and P&C communication contacts combined? What channels are most effective? Or overlooked?

We've heard many associations are using QR codes to help new parents quickly access links to Facebook or web pages (even opt-in subscriptions) to access information and association news. One school had the QR code on a cookie label.

A free MailChimp subscription allows for automated email distribution via opt-in subscription to a cohort-based mailing list. With no privacy concerns around managing personal contact lists. [Email for details](#) and instruction about setting this up.



Meeting closed 8.30pm

## Early Learning Subcommittee Terms of Reference

- Promote the importance of preschool education to ACT families,
- Support parent engagement in early years learning,
- Support families to complete online enrolment for preschool,
- Provide information, training and support services to associations
- Advise Council Executive and meetings on policy and matters relating to ACT preschool/early childhood education,
- Provide input to Council submissions on preschool issues,
- Provide representatives on behalf of Council to related external forums, committees, advisory/working groups or task forces.
- Provide updates to the Education Directorate on activities
- Maintain the early learning subcommittee.