



ACT Council of P&C Associations  
 Early Learning Committee Meeting  
**Minutes summary** February 18, 2021, 7pm  
 Online via zoom

**Announcements:**

P&C Council **General Meeting – Tuesday 23** February ([minutes](#))  
*Planning for Wellbeing* - Register with Be You: <https://beyou.edu.au/register>  
 Report re *increasing segregation in education* from the [Gonski Centre](#)

<p><b>Council’s Early Learning Committee (ELC)</b> was established to absorb the evolving function of the <i>Canberra Preschool Society (1943-2018)</i>. The ELC continues to promote early learning and support parents and families in ACT public preschools. for more information:        ACT Council of Parents and Citizens <a href="#">website EL</a>        Council Communicator newsletter <a href="#">subscribe</a>        Early Learning <a href="#">Resources</a> for parent associations</p>	intro
<p><b>1) ACT Early Childhood Strategy, <a href="#">report ‘Set up for success’</a></b> Aug 2020        10 year plan - implementation. <b>Summary Phase 1</b> 2020-2021</p> <p>The ELC will continue to refer to implementation trials (3 YO preschool, 3-4 YO OSHC) and progress, and seek feedback re the impact on preschool communities.</p> <p>The ACT’s early childhood sector includes a range of service providers (FP, NFP, public), and is regulated (CECA) to meet the education and care needs of families. The Territory Government funds 15 hours p/w of preschool for four year olds and is currently phasing in the expansion to three year old preschool.</p> <p>Obtain further details from the Education Directorate.</p>	ACT Early Childhood Strategy
<p>The report has four focus areas:</p> <p><b>A fair start for every child.</b> Parents, families, and carers are a child’s first and most important teachers. Support parents to develop their skills and access help when they need it. Improve access to quality early learning and development opportunities targeted to the individual needs of each child. Up to 10 per cent of all ACT children (age 1-4) are experiencing disadvantage and missing out on quality early childhood education opportunities.</p> <p>Valuing children and investing in their learning and development requires that the government and community <b>value and invest in educators</b>. Locally, <i>Set up for Success</i> is a plan for government, providers and the community to support the education and care workforce through enhancing skills and qualifications, and recognising the direct, positive educational and developmental impact the workforce has on children’s early lives.</p> <p><b>Every Child has a Story.</b> Every child begins life with a unique set of circumstances and background factors that shape their experience. Early learning and</p>	<p>Strategy focus areas</p> <p>monitor and Mtg with:          M. Foley          J. Batt          S. Meeth</p>

<p>development begins in this context, with each child’s early childhood and educational journey shaped by it.</p> <p><a href="#">Working together for Children</a>... service providers within government and the community sector are working together</p>	
<p><b>2) Early learning/Preschool feedback and family priorities for 2021</b> the ELC voices parent experiences of preschool such as enrolment processes, equity, access, communication, transitions, inclusion and wellbeing. The following items were raised:</p> <p><b>Preschool hours: alternative Wednesdays or half day Wednesdays?</b> Hours of attendance is often raised by parents with preschoolers due to the challenges of managing preschool times and work. Preschool programs run either 2 days per week with alternating Wednesdays or 2.5 days per week with half-day Wednesdays.</p> <p>While this increases capacity, it’s been noted that fewer children attend preschool on the half day. Parents have reported juggling flex days at work to accommodate the varying hours, and this can be stressful for parents and children, as well as educators.</p> <p>With demand for extended preschool hours – and out of school hours care (oosh) for preschoolers, the ELC will continue to monitor and report on the early childhood strategy implementation in relation to investigating options for wrap-around hours (<a href="#">p13</a>).</p> <p><b>Anaphylaxis</b> It’s difficult to access information about processes for allergies and anaphylaxis on the ACT Education Directorate website. The weblinks under First Aid policy are for internal access only. Is it possible to have more information available to parents regarding these policies? Can the ELC access the forms required for parents and teachers in relation to allergies and anaphylaxis? Marina to review with EDU and summarise for the next meeting.</p> <p><a href="#">Superfood Attitude</a> Children’s nutrition book for early learners looking at how different superfoods help your body. Link <a href="#">here</a> for a reading by the author, nutritionist Clare Zivanovic.</p>	<p>issue summary</p> <p>Preschool hours</p> <p>Anaphylaxis policy, forms</p> <p>Superfoods resource</p> <p>Issues poll for EL</p>
<p><b>3) Preschool parent data</b> <a href="#">ABS</a> and Australian Early Development Census <a href="#">AEDC</a> data available to support funding applications. <a href="#">examples</a></p>	
<p><b>4) eSafety Commissioner new resources</b> A new book and music resource available for children about online safety <a href="#">picture book and song</a> with a reading by Jimmy Giggle. Also, free <a href="#">parent webinars</a> about helping children to stay safe and build respectful relationships online.</p>	<p>resources</p>