

August 2011

Project update

The Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Reform Project is progressing.

Draft reform options were presented to service providers across all nine regions in March 2011. Sector and family focus group feedback were considered by Allen Consulting Group (ACG) who provided their final report for ECIS Reform to DEECD in May 2011.

The ACG report is being considered alongside previous work undertaken by KPMG and the revised literature review completed by the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH).

In addition, work has commenced to further inform the ECIS Reform Project:

- Development of a service delivery framework for ECIS.
- Development of a funding formula to align with the new service framework.
- A literature review to examine the most effective use of specialist therapy services in ECIS provision.
- A pilot project to test the draft ECIS Quality Framework and draft Standards for ECIS has commenced.

Quality Framework pilot

A draft Victorian ECIS Quality Framework which includes service standards has been developed under the guidance of an advisory group, with broad representation from peak bodies, government agencies and local government.

KPMG supported the development of the framework, which included:

- Consultations with the ECIS sector
- Review of relevant policy documents
- Review of literature on ECIS
- Review of quality frameworks and service/program standards in Victoria.

The draft Victorian ECIS Quality Framework identifies desired outcomes for children, their families and community. It is designed to provide a structure for the ECIS sector to continuously review and improve services and measure how they contribute to achievement of these outcomes.

A pilot project is currently running in the Barwon South-West and Southern Metropolitan regions until September 2011. The pilot will test that the draft Standards and components of the Quality Framework are meaningful for the ECIS sector.

The pilot will evaluate the learning and development approaches to support successful implementation of the Framework.

Implementation of the ECIS Quality Framework will be considered as part of the range of ECIS reform initiatives.

More information:

Information on ECIS Reform is available from the DEECD website:

www.education.vic.gov.au/ecisreform

Please direct any queries to:

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