

ECIS Reform Project Stage 2

September 2010

The next step in reforming Victoria's Early Childhood Intervention Services

A project to develop options for reform of Victorian Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) for young children with a disability, developmental delay or additional needs and their families has commenced.

A public tender process to appoint external contractors to assist in the development of reform options was advertised on 11 August 2010.

The ECIS Reform Project Stage 2 will explore options for an evidence-based ECIS service delivery model, a streamlined ECIS program structure, the roles of government and the community sector in intake and service delivery, a governance and accountability framework and a new funding model. The ECIS Reform Project will run until June 2011.

This project will build on the *Reform of Early Childhood Intervention Strategies and Actions* report 2008 and the *Early childhood intervention reform project literature review* 2008.

This work recommended action to strengthen service delivery, program governance and accountability and investment.

The reports, along with the Government's Response, are available for download at www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmangement/intervention/publications.htm.

A solid basis on which to build

The formation of the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development in 2007 provides a platform for the development of an integrated approach to services and supports for children and young people with a disability, developmental delay or additional needs from birth to 18 years.

The *Blueprint for Education and Early Childhood Development* 2008 outlined the Government's agenda for learning and development and committed to early childhood intervention reform and to developing a whole of government strategy for children and young people with a disability or developmental delay.

Better opportunities, better outcomes: Strategic directions for Victorian services and supports for children and young people with a disability or developmental delay was released in June 2010.

These documents provide the policy and strategic framework for improved service coordination and quality across disability, early childhood and schools.

The ECIS Reform Project Stage 2 will support the achievement of these strategic directions. It will deliver options for a more integrated and efficient service system that will optimise outcomes for young children with a disability, developmental delay or additional needs and their families.

Expected outcomes

The project will provide options by June 2011 in relation to:

- A new ECIS service delivery model
- A new funding model
- A streamlined program structure
- Roles of government and the community sector in relation to intake and service delivery
- A governance and accountability framework

Project scope

Early years programs for children with a disability or developmental delay funded by DEECD, including:

- Early Childhood Intervention Services
- Kindergarten Inclusion Support Services
- Preschool Field Officer Program
- Flexible Support Program
- Early Education Programs in Specialist Schools

Indicative timing for the project

- Contractor commences: October 2010
- Final Report :31 April 2011

Stakeholder consultation

The communication strategy includes establishment of a Project Advisory Group to provide expert advice as well as broader consultation at key stages of the project.

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