

# ECIS Reform Project Stage 2

April 2011

The Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) Reform Project Stage 2 builds on previous work to identify opportunities for future reform of ECIS.

The scope of the project includes 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.

The project aims to significantly enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of Victoria's ECIS system and improve outcomes for children with a disability, developmental delay or additional needs and their families.

The project will deliver advice on reform options to the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development by mid 2011.

## Service mapping

A key starting point for the project involved clarifying what we know about the sector as it is now. The Allen Consulting Group undertook a service mapping survey project to clarify roles, processes, resources and service delivery models in the early childhood intervention sector.

Preliminary results of the service mapping were considered in the development of draft options for reform.

## What does the research say?

The Centre for Community Child Health conducted a literature review to identify the evidence base underpinning best practice in early childhood intervention.

Key areas addressed in the review include:

- Addressing service fragmentation
- Evidence-based, outcome-focused approaches
- Working towards inclusive service systems
- Tiered intervention models
- Strengthening professional competencies.

The Literature Review is now available on the DEECD website: [www.education.vic.gov.au/ecisreform](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecisreform)

## How was the sector consulted?

Consultation forums were held with service providers across all nine regions in December 2010. Early Childhood Intervention Australia presented the literature review and evidence base and Allen Consulting facilitated discussion sessions to explore stakeholder perspectives on ECIS reform. Key messages from the consultations have informed the development of draft reform options.

A further round of consultation was conducted with service providers in March. At these meetings, a range of options were discussed about how services should be delivered, who should deliver what and how they should be funded. The sector's feedback is now being considered by Allen Consulting Group.

## What about families' views?

Focus groups were held in March, with a cross-section of families currently accessing ECIS, or who have accessed ECIS in the past. These sessions explored families' experiences of service provision and their views on approaches to improvement. Information gathered will be considered in refining the options for reform.

## Next steps

A final report and recommendations will be provided to the Minister mid 2011. Further work is likely to occur following consideration of this work. For further information contact [early.childhood.intervention@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:early.childhood.intervention@edumail.vic.gov.au)



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