

## Briefing Note: Agenda Items for 6 September 2023, ECAC meeting

To:	Hon Jo Luxton, Associate Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
Date:	30 August 2023	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1315377
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

### Purpose of Report

This paper provides you with a briefing on the agenda items ahead of the Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) members' meeting on Wednesday, 6 September 2023.

### Summary

1. The purpose of ECAC is to foster a relationship between Government, through the Ministry of Education and the early learning sector, to achieve common goals. ECAC is made up of senior representatives from early learning sector organisations.
2. You are attending the upcoming ECAC quarterly face-to-face meeting on Wednesday, 6 September from 9:45am – 10:15am, alongside Iona Holsted, Secretary for Education. The meeting is being held at the Generator complex in the Pūtahi Room, 40 Bowen Street, Wellington. This is located behind Defence House at the rear of Parliament.
3. This is an opportunity for you to meet with ECAC members, to share information and to hear from them.

## Proactive Release

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1. **Agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you and the meeting has taken place.

 Agree / Disagree

Nancy Bell  
**Hautū | Deputy Secretary**  
**Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga**

  
Hon Jo Luxton  
**Associate Minister of Education**

  
6.9.23

## Background

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1. ECAC was established to bring employer peak bodies, large providers, and union groups together to provide advice on the operation of early childhood education at a national level.
2. The meeting allows organisations to share information; give feedback on proposals by the Government, the Ministry and other government agencies; discuss difficulties and opportunities facing the early learning sector; and identify and discuss strategic challenges and opportunities.
3. Currently the group includes 30 members who meet four times a year in Wellington, in addition to fortnightly online operational meetings in recent times. A small number of Ministry of Education staff attend both the quarterly and the operational meetings.

## The 6 September ECAC Meeting

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4. In addition to meeting with you, the following items will be discussed at ECAC on 6 September:
  - a. Unpacking recent announcements
  - b. Early Learning Action Plan (ELAP) Update
    - i. Kōwhiti Whakapae
    - ii. Regulatory update
    - iii. New dashboard supporting Early Learning Network approval
    - iv. Data relating to service openings and closures
  - c. ECE Funding Overview
  - d. Workshop on Funding Review
5. Ministry officials will speak to these agenda items, providing an update or overview on specific streams of work in the early learning space. A brief overview of each item is provided for you below.
6. A copy of the agenda for this meeting is attached as Annex One.
7. The ELAP dashboard is attached as Annex Two.
8. The list of ECAC representatives is attached as Annex Three.
9. The PowerPoint slides for the ECE Funding Overview presentation will be provided to your office separately.

## Unpacking recent announcements

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10. This Ministry-led session will be for ECAC members to hear from the Ministry and discuss recent announcements relating to ECE.

## Early Learning Action Plan

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11. Members will be provided with an update on the quarterly activity against the objectives and actions in the Early Learning Action Plan. This quarter the update will include:
  - a. Members will be updated on the Kōwhiti Whakapae practice and progress tool, in the area of social and emotional learning. This presentation will give ECAC members an early look at the website before launch in September 2023, and update them on progress on the oral language and literacy, and maths tools and associated resources.
  - b. Regulatory update: This item will give an update on the progress of the Ministry's current early learning regulatory work programme, including:
    - Strengthening the person responsible requirements in teacher-led, home-based, and hospital-based services, and other Tranche 2 regulatory changes.
    - Developing advice about centre design, wider environmental factors and group size, and how to improve quality standards in these areas (ELAP 1.3).
    - Identifying options to address supply of early learning services in underserved communities (ELAP 5.2)
  - c. Members will be introduced to the Interactive Early Learning Network Dashboard which went live 14 August 2023:[The Early Learning Network Dashboard | Education Counts](#) The purpose of the interactive dashboard is to support those wishing to apply for Network approval to more easily access and interpret data relating to the communities they intend to serve. This dashboard brings together Statistics NZ data on population and ethnicity with ECE Census data on current provision as well as future provision (Network Approvals granted) at an SA2 level.
  - d. Data and Insights will present the number of new and cancelled licences between July 2022 and June 2023, including by regional council areas and in comparison to regional population estimates.

## ECE Funding Overview

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12. This presentation will cover the size and distribution of ECE funding, alongside inclusion of some comparative indicators. It will also cover how the funding system has developed and changed over time, including identification of principles that have underpinned different iterations of the funding system.

## Workshop on Funding Review

13. The workshop follows on from the session with ECAC on 28 July 2023 and will be run in two parts. Part one will focus on ensuring we have correctly captured ECAC's key goals for a funding review, as expressed during the 28 July workshop. Attendees will be asked to prioritise these goals based on importance for their organisation.
14. Part two will look at the principles underpinning the ECE funding system and how these are expressed in current settings. The purpose of this session is to understand what principles ECAC considers important, and views on whether we have the current settings right for those principles of ECE funding. These discussions will help inform the scope of any potential review.

## **Annexes**

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Annex 1: ECAC 6 September Draft Agenda

Annex 2: ELAP Dashboard

Annex 3: List of ECAC members

Proactively Released

Annex 1: Early Childhood Advisory Committee Draft Agenda

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Proactively Released

Annex 2: Early Learning Action Plan Dashboard

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Proactively Released

### Annex 3: Early Childhood Advisory Committee – List of Representatives

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1. Those in orange are representatives whom you have not yet met. One service has an alternative representative attending the meeting on 6 September. Those in green send their apologies.

Name	Service
Kelly Seaburg	Advocates for Early Learning Excellence
Pauline Winter	Auckland Kindergarten Association (AKA)
<b>Rebecca Chatwin</b>	<b>Barnardos New Zealand (alternate for Heather Taylor)</b>
Fiona Hughes	BestStart
<b>Liza Iliffe</b>	<b>Christian Early Childhood Education Association of Aotearoa</b>
Simon Laube	Early Childhood Council
Christine Hall	Early Childhood Leadership Group
Lee Jones	Early Intervention Association of Aotearoa New Zealand (EIAANZ)
<b>Sandra Collins</b>	<b>Education Review Office</b>
Raewyn Overton-Stuart	Home Early Learning Organisation (HELO)
Nicola Woollaston	Hospital Play Specialists
Cathy Wilson	Montessori Aotearoa New Zealand (MANZ)
Allanah Clark	NZEI Te Riu Roa
Geena Fagan	NZEI Te Riu Roa
Tere Gilbert	Ngā Puna Reo o Aotearoa
<b>Samantha Christians</b>	<b>NZ Home-based Early Childhood Education Association</b>
Jill Bond	NZ Kindergartens Inc.
Susan Bailey	NZ Playcentre Federation
Hellen Puhipuhi	Pasifika Advisory Group
Karen Affleck	Steiner Education, Aotearoa
Lesley Hoskin	Teaching Council of Aotearoa
Ann Stewart	Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu, NZ Correspondence School
Cherie Marks	Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust
Kathy Wolfe	Te Rito Maioha Early Childhood NZ

# Early Learning Action Plan (ELAP) Dashboard (10-year plan 2019 to 2029)

## Reporting Period: June – September 2023

- Key Activities
  - Early Learning Regulatory Review – Substantive work on Tranche Two is now complete. Scoping work for Tranche Three is underway, including taking a more connected approach to improving ratios, raising qualification requirements and group size.
  - Network Management – Interactive Early Learning Network Dashboard went live 14 August 2023. The Early Learning Network Dashboard | Education Counts
  - Kōwhiti Whakapae – A progress and practice resource, Kōwhiti Whakapae, has been developed which supports kaiako to foster children's social and emotional learning. This will be launched in September 2023.
  - Early learning teacher supply strategy – 563 ECE teachers arrived in Aotearoa between Jan 2022 and July 2023. 80 places were allocated for ECE teachers to complete Teacher Education Refresher programmes fees free.

## September 2023

Objectives	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Objective One									
1.1 Improve the ratios of adults to children under the age of 3 years in teacher-led centre-based early learning services	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
1.2 Require teachers to be organised among groups of children in ways that support secure and consistent care, language learning pathways, and positive transitions for children and whānau	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
1.3 Develop advice about group size, centre design and wider environmental factors, and how to improve quality standards in these areas	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
1.4 Support parents and whānau to navigate their choices of education and language learning pathways through better access to information	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
Objective Two									
2.1 Review equity and targeted funding to ensure that they best support children to benefit from access to high-quality early learning experiences	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
2.2 Develop advice to facilitate wrap-around health and social services to support children and their whānau to engage in early learning and ensure that it is clear who holds key responsibility for coordinating learning support in each early learning service	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
Objective Three									
3.1 Incentivise for 100% and regulate for 80% qualified teachers in teacher-led centres, leading to regulation for 100%	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.2 Raise the levels of home-based educators' qualifications	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.3 Develop an early learning teacher supply strategy that aligns with the wider education workforce strategy	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.4 Implement a mechanism that improves the levels and consistency of teachers' salaries and conditions across the early learning sector	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.5 Improve Initial Teacher Education (ITE) to ensure that teachers are well-qualified to implement the curriculum in collaboration with other professionals	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.6 Develop a sustained and planned approach to Professional Learning and Development (PLD)	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.7 Develop innovation and research hubs for early learning services	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.8 Support early learning services to participate as equitable partners in cross-service and cross-sector collaboration	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
3.9 Support the workforce to integrate te reo Māori into all early learning services	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
Objective Four									
4.1 Gazette the curriculum framework, Te Whāriki, to support engagement with the principles, strands, goals and outcomes when designing local curricula	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
4.2 Co-construct a range of valid, reliable, culturally and linguistically appropriate tools to support formative assessment and teaching practice	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
4.3 Support services to undertake robust internal evaluation that strengthens implementation of Te Whāriki and ensures ongoing improvement	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
Objective Five									
5.1 Introduce a managed network approach to ensure high quality, diverse and sustainable early learning provision	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.2 Identify options to address supply of early learning services in under-served communities	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.3 Set aside space for early learning services alongside school sites, where possible	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.4 Strengthen governance and management support for Pacific language and other community early learning services	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.5 Introduce a consistent and rigorous programme of monitoring and licensing	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.6 Improve transparency of funding for parents, teaching staff and government	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							
5.7 Co-design an appropriate funding model with Playcentre Aotearoa New Zealand	On track	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe							

- On track
- Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
- Not yet scheduled
- Unlikely to be completed

Action 1.1 – This action is part of Tranche 3 of the Early Learning Regulatory Review. Further policy development and timeframe will be considered as part of work to take a connected approach with group size and increasing qualification requirements.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 1.2 – Work is underway to release curriculum guidance, and new resources for Te Whāriki Online are being developed.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 1.3 – This action expected to lead to updated guidance for early childhood services and early work underway. Several areas are included with the initial focus likely to be on environmental factors. Expressions of interest for the centre design, Environmental factors and Group size Advisory Panel (CEGAP) have been considered and the group is on track for establishment in early September.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 1.4 – NoE and DIA have developed an Early learning journeys (ELJ) web-based tool to help parents identify/select an early learning service that meets their needs within their locale and gain early advice on financial childcare support. Work is on-going to improve the tool.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 2.1 – Amendments to the Education and Training Act to enable development of an IDL-based index for ECE services have been passed.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 2.2 – Linked to Learning Support Action Plan (LSAP) priorities 1, 3 and 5. The development of policy on facilitating the wrap-around health and social services has been delayed due to COVID impacts. Work on developing key responsibility for coordinating learning support has been placed on-hold as the timing of the work needs to be considered.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.1 – Cabinet has agreed to slow down work to implement 80 percent qualified teachers in teacher-led ECE centres until the next term of Government. This takes into account sector concerns about the number of changes already underway and ongoing teacher supply challenges.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.2 – Complete. Changes to minimum qualifications for educators in home-based ECE services have been made to the regulations and commenced on 1 June 2022.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.3 – We have invested in overseas recruitment to alleviate supply pressures and are encouraging N-based ECE teachers to return to teaching. 563 ECE teachers have arrived in the country from Jan 2022 to 27 July 2023, and 80 places were allocated for ECE teachers to complete Teacher Education Refresher programmes fees free.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.4 – A list of services going into extended party at July 2023 has been published on the Ministry's website. Services have the opportunity to opt into the Full Party funding rates as part of the November 2023 payment.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.5 – To date, 33 ECE programmes have been approved by the Teaching Council. 20 - Bachelor Degree, 9 - Graduate Diploma, 1 - Post Graduate Diploma, 3 - Masters programmes.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.6 – Leadership coaching initiative with stand-alone services is underway. This programme will run for a year and be evaluated.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.7 – The Accord (the Ministry of Education, NZEI, and the PPNZ) joint paper went to the Minister with a series of recommendations to look further into eight key areas of the Kāhui Ako initiative where it was felt improvements could be made, which include exploring how the model can become more accessible for ECE. The Minister agreed to all recommendations. The Ministry is establishing a work programme to respond to the recommendations with the Accord.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.8 – The Accord (the Ministry of Education, NZEI, and the PPNZ) joint paper went to the Minister with a series of recommendations to look further into eight key areas of the Kāhui Ako initiative where it was felt improvements could be made, which include exploring how the model can become more accessible for ECE. The Minister agreed to all recommendations. The Ministry is establishing a work programme to respond to the recommendations with the Accord.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 3.9 – Early learning and whāngai reo participant numbers continue to increase. From July 2022 to April 2023, Te Ara o Te Reo Māori participation support funds have been made for 1,331 early learning participants who are part of over 16,043 participants in the programme across the education workforce. This kaupapa is proving to be a catalyst for change and improvement across the sector in terms of te reo Māori learning and use in early learning centres, classrooms, and schools.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 4.1 – On 21 April 2023 a Gazette notice was issued expanding the legal early childhood curriculum to include the full framework of Te Whāriki and a te ao Māori interpretation (Te Ara Māori). The expanded framework will come into effect from 1 May 2024 and a range of guidance resources are being developed to support implementation.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 4.2 – We are in the final stages of uploading the social and emotional learning content onto the website and creating the whānau resource so are on track to launch Kōwhai Whakapae (SE) in September 2023. Oral language and literacy, and maths and associated resources are being developed ready for release in June 2024.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 4.3 – ERO's post-review questionnaire data from 163 services found that 76% of these services reported that their ERO Akarangi   Quality Evaluation helped them to develop their internal evaluation capability and capacity. ERO's judgements in 296 Akarangi   Quality Evaluation reports indicated for the domain Ngā Aroha   Whai Hora   Evaluation for Improvement: Whakatō   Emerging – 9%; Whāngā   Establishing – 27%; Whakāū   Embedding – 47%; Whakawhākate   Sustaining – 17%.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.1 – The early childhood services network approval regulations took effect on 1 February 2023. A list of approvals can be found on the Ministry website. The criteria related to exclusion of Early Learning services from network approval by Cabinet, and Gazetteed, and took effect on 28 August 2023. These changes seek to support services who have had their land acquired by the Crown and to clarify the Sector's ability to consider network approval when assessing an application to amend a licence. The interactive Early Learning Network Dashboard has been released, providing the sector with geographic data about population, ECE supply and network approvals.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.2 – This action is an extension of the new network management function and scoping and data gathering work is now underway.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.3 – The Ministry has finalised policy changes to set aside space for Early Learning services where space is available, affordable, and practicable within the masterplan of the school.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.4 – Evaluation of the Targeted support for Pacific Early Learning centres has now been completed and the final report delivered for distribution. The Regional Pacific Early Learning Advisers are engaging with their early learning services and forecasting planned support needed for this financial year.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.5 – The Ministry and ERO continue to work together on how both agencies work within their respective roles to ensure providers are operating consistently within regulated standards.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.6 – From 1 March 2024, services opted into 20 Hours ECE will charge fees by the hour for 2-5 year old children and publish their fees.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe
Action 5.7 – The Regional Pacific Early Learning Advisers are continuing to engage with Playcentre Aotearoa.	Delayed but likely to complete within timeframe

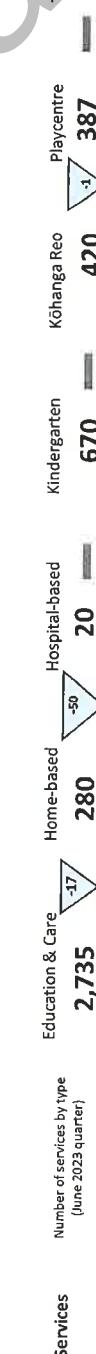
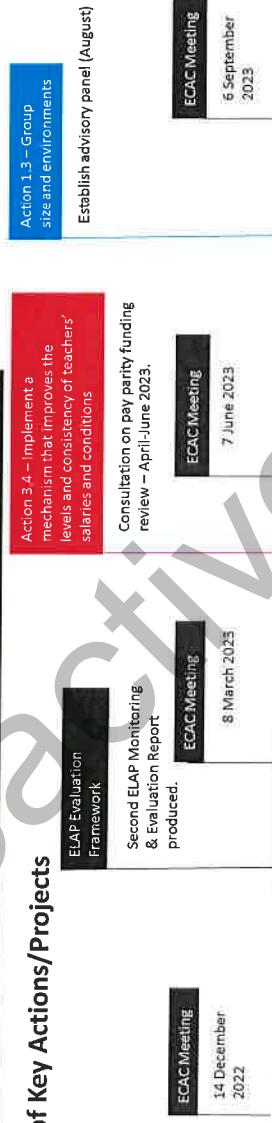
# Early Learning Action Plan Dashboard (10-year plan 2019 to 2029)

## Reporting Period: June – September 2023

### Legend

- Objective 1: Children and whānau experience environments which promote their wellbeing and support identity, language and culture.
  - Objective 2: All children are able to participate in quality early learning and have the support they need to learn and thrive.
  - Objective 3: Teaching staff and leaders are well qualified, diverse, culturally competent and valued.
  - Objective 4: Children develop capabilities that are valued by their whānau and community and support them to be competent and confident learners.
  - Objective 5: Early learning services are part of a planned and coherent education system that is supported, accountable and sustainable.
- Early Childhood Advisory Committee Meetings and non-ELAP Related milestones

### High-Level Milestones of Key Actions/Projects



The number of Early Learning Services was previously sourced from the ECCE directory, which is a current version of ECE services and did not align with currently existing requirements. The methodology has since been updated to source Early Learning Services quarterly data from the ELI system. Data for the March 2023 quarter has been recalculated and data included in this report may differ from the ECCE directory.

Notes on these figures: Participation data from the Early Learning Information System is considered provisional. Kōhanga reo participation data is taken from the ECCE Directory at the time of compilation but are based on 2022 Census figures for services that were open when the directory was extracted. The total participation figure does not include Kōhanga reo. Children are counted once in each type of service they attended and once in the total summing directly across service types will double count some children.

Funding band information relates to each full funding period.

## AGENDA

**Early Childhood Advisory Committee (ECAC) Quarterly Meeting**  
**6 September 2023**  
**9:00am to 3:30pm**

<b>Location</b>	Pūtahi Room, Generator 40 Bowen Street, Wellington
<b>Chair</b>	Nancy Bell
<b>Secretariat</b>	Kristen Sharma
<b>Apologies</b>	
<b>Circulated before meeting</b>	Apologies, minutes, actions
<b>Guests</b>	Hon Jo Luxton; Associate Minister of Education Iona Holsted; Secretary for Education

#	Topic	Sponsor	Paper/ Oral	Start time
1	Welcome, karakia and introductions			9:00
	(a) General welcome to all	Nancy Bell	Oral	
	(b) Karakia	Kathy Wolfe	Oral	
	(c) Member movements	Nancy Bell	Oral	
	(d) Apologies	Nancy Bell	Oral	
	(e) Confirming June minutes and actions	Nancy Bell	Paper	
2	Unpacking recent announcements	Nancy Bell	Oral	9.15
3	Associate Minister of Education Jo Luxton	Hon Jo Luxton	Oral	9:45

4	<b>Morning tea</b>			10:15
5	Early Learning Action Plan dashboard	Megan Hutchison	Oral	10:30
	Kōwhiti Whakapae	Jane Ewens	Presentation	
	Regulatory Update	Paul Scholey	Presentation	
	New dashboard supporting Early Learning Network approval	Ray McMillan	Presentation	
	The data relating to service openings and closures	Rory Sudfelt	Presentation	
6	ECE Funding Overview	John Brooker	Presentation	11.15
7	<b>Lunch</b>			12:30
8	Workshop: Funding Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part 1: Prioritising ECAC's key goals</li> <li>• Part 2: Principles underpinning the ECE funding system</li> </ul>	Nancy Bell	Workshop	1.00
9	Reflections and wrap up	Nancy Bell	Oral	3:15
10	Closing Karakia	Kathy Wolfe	Oral	3:30