

# Early Childhood Education and Care Funding Scorecard

July 2018 – December 2018

To provide access to support children's learning and development

## Outcomes for children and families



**84%** ↑ children access the service activities on a weekly basis.

**92%** ↓ children are participating and engaged.

**84%** ↑ parents/carers report being able to participate in employment, training and support activities because their child/children attend the activity.

**72**  
early  
childhood  
services

## Story behind the data

### Safe and engaging early learning experiences

All Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) service providers identified safe and engaging early learning experiences and the social and emotional wellbeing of children, as the outcomes of their work. Most services were proud of the warm and welcoming environment they created for children and the reassurance this gave parents/carers. Services worked responsively and listened to their children and local communities. ECEC services actively engaged children in creative play, physical healthy living activities, kitchen gardening and nutritious meal programs that could be communicated through learning journals and easily recreated and continued in the home environment.

### Parental engagement and support

The engagement and education of parents/carers about the importance of early childhood continues to contribute to outcomes for children. Most ECEC services have strategies for communicating with parents/carers and inviting consultation. Staff are taking time to understand the pressures impacting families and responding with individualised care, referrals to services for support, and helping parents/carers feel confident in the care provided to their children. Several services include parent and child time activities including playgroups, stay and play days and reading programs that support parents/carers to enjoy time with their child. ECEC services are working to ensure they provide the highest quality care for children while informing parents/carers on the progress of their child.

### External impacts and challenges

The 1 July 2018 introduction of the Commonwealth Child Care Scheme (CCS) has had a considerable impact on services both administratively and financially. ECEC services which are already operating on small margins of financial viability are struggling to cope with the high numbers of families who report they are now defaulting due to increased fees/changed payment relief structures.

Transport continues to be a key issue for many remote services. The provision of transport to the service directly from school assists children to attend on a more regular basis. Reliable transport also provides parents confidence that their children arrive at the ECEC services safely. Queensland weather events have further compounded transport issues leaving many services cut off from their client families or experiencing partial closure periods to remedy damage.

## Partnerships

- Local schools and ECEC services
- Community and family support services
- Local child and maternal health services
- Inclusion support agencies
- Sporting clubs and cultural groups
- Parents/carers and children

## Activities

- ECEC Services including OSHC, Limited Hours Care, Long Day Care, Vacation Care Access
- Developmentally appropriate activities and resources
- Strong communication and co-design strategies
- Health and nutrition initiatives



## Feedback and observations

What has been the most significant change –

*'The children are comfortable knowing that they have educators to depend on and reach out to when they need it and my educators have felt more supported and are working well as a team.'*

*'The child's social and emotional skills, creativity and motor skills have improved since we have been working with him. He has learnt to find activities that ground him and he has taken ownership of his own behaviours and genuine participation'*

**88%** ↑  
parents/carers report their child/children are benefiting from participating in the activity

## Continuous Improvement

### Early Childhood Education and Care services will:

- develop new communication tools and engagement strategies to build community awareness and inform service development
- work in partnership with key stakeholders to ensure each parent/carer and their children are supported and have access to relevant support services to enable their children to reach their potential and successfully transition to school
- foster positive relationships with parents/carers and other community stakeholders
- continue to deliver a high quality play based learning environment.

### The Department of Education will work with ECEC services to:

- support the development of workforce capability and leadership capacity
- refine data collection methods and meet all reporting requirements
- assist with the use of data (including outcome data and the Australian Early Development Census) to continuously improve service delivery.

Disclaimer: Scorecard data comprises ECEC services reporting in a six monthly cycle or end of contract period (equal to 36 out of a possible 72 ECEC services).

Early Childhood Education and Care snapshot



**3526**  
Total # of children participating

**6%**  
Children with disability

**5%**  
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse children

**6%**  
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children