

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES



EARLY YEARS

AUGUST 2009

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS (COAG) EARLY CHILDHOOD REFORMS

The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia

Belonging, Being and Becoming: the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia and an explanatory leaflet will be delivered to long-day care services, family day care services and school-based kindergartens soon.

The Framework has been developed by the COAG to assist educators in early education and care services to provide young children with opportunities to maximise their potential. In the Framework 'educators' are all who work directly with children in early childhood services, including child care. The Framework aims to develop a foundation for future success in learning and supports play-based learning for children up to five years of age.

Services can become familiar with and, if they choose, begin using it to support their day-to-day work with children and their families. Use of the Framework is not part of current licensing and accreditation processes.

It is likely that the Framework will form part of a proposed unified national quality system with national standards and eventually this system will replace

the current licensing and quality assurance processes.

COAG is expected to decide on a national system later this year.

The Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations will provide long-day care and kindergarten services with five copies of the Framework and three copies of the leaflet for families. Family day care services will receive one copy of the Framework and three of the leaflet. The Framework and information leaflet can also be accessed at: www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood.

Support for implementing the Framework

Support for the familiarisation phase, prior to implementation of the Framework is available through:

- Child Australia, the Professional Support Coordinator for Western Australia on (08) 9249 4333 or 1800 783 768
- Yorganop, the Indigenous Professional Support Unit for Western Australia on (08) 9321 9090 or 1800 788 520.
- Department for Communities' children's services officers on (08) 6279 1200 or 1800 654 432.



Support for implementing the Framework cont...

An Educators' Guide is being developed to support educators in early childhood education and care services to implement the Framework. It will comprise eight modules, with the first available later this year.

A Professional Support Package with a focus on supporting staff in Indigenous services is expected to be available in early 2010.

The Guide and Support Package will help services to move from familiarisation into implementation.

Other COAG endorsements

COAG has also endorsed:

- Investing in the Early Years - A National Early Childhood Development Strategy
- the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for Early Childhood Education and Care for consultation, which looks at the impacts of initiatives relating to the national early childhood education and care reforms.

These documents and information on making a submission about the RIS can be found on the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workforce Relations website:

www.deewr.gov.au/EarlyChildhood/Pages/EarlyChildhoodReforms.aspx

The closing date for written responses is 31 August 2009.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE ADEQUACY OF SERVICES TO MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL NEEDS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN

The report of this Parliamentary Inquiry has recently been released and can be accessed online at www.parliament.wa.gov.au or purchased by emailing sales@dpc.wa.gov.au

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