



E-Updates from CECEAA



March 2009

Dear Members

Greetings to you all for the New Year.

If you are no longer the appropriate person/email address to receive this email please let us know and if possible forward the appropriate email address for the service.

With the change in government and the economic recession this is going to be an interesting year ahead. We will be keeping you updated as information comes to hand.

We urgently need your feedback on the Crimes Act Pamphlet Request and ECE regulations – see below

Review of ECE Regulations Reminder URGENT

Before the elections the Minister signalled a review of the 2008 Early Childhood regulations that were due to come into effect at 1st Dec 2008. On line consultation documents are to be found on the lead.ece.govt.nz website. Close off date is 16th March 2009. **It is vitally important that as many services/individuals feedback their views.** This review will be collated by the Ministry and regulations amended so that relicensing under these amended regulations will begin from 1st July 2009. **Please also send us your comments for an organisational response by 12th March.**

National Conference 2009

Brochures and registration forms have now been sent to members. The conference flyer has also been advertised throughout the country. To get your first choice of accommodation and workshops we recommend a prompt return of registration forms and fees. ***Don't forget the early bird cut off.***

Report back from the first Early Childhood Federation Meeting: Kindergarten Wage Negotiations:

- This settlement in recent years has fed through to increases in the bulk funding rates for all teacher led and home base services. Bargaining that was due to begin in February has been delayed due the new government not being ready to enter negotiations. ***This has implications for the July rates.***

NZ Teachers Council:

- The New Satisfactory Teacher Dimensions - The NZ Teachers council reported that new dimensions are being developed. Information on the new criteria is on their website. The new dimensions are being trialled in some Christchurch services. There will be transitional arrangements for those who started teacher registration prior to their introduction.

- There is a review underway of initial teacher education especially around the length of the practicum and visiting teacher requirements. This may see practicum's extended from next year.
- For Maori medium initial teacher programmes there is a review of the competency of the teachers graduating and as they progress in their teaching career to gauge their effectiveness in supporting Maori medium services long term.
- 5 Linking Minds Scholarships are available for teachers who have completed initial teacher registration within the last 5 years and demonstrating they are emerging leaders. The applications timeframe is notified in the gazette. This involves an overseas study tour.
- An ECE leadership position paper is being developed, investigating what is happening in ECE in order that an ECE leadership strategy be produced to provide equity with other teaching sectors e.g. first time principal support.
- A discussion document will soon come out to services (June) reviewing how people get registered, what is a teaching position, who are the learners etc as part of registration process review.

Teacher Registration Categories:

- Provisional Registration - available to anyone with a NZQA approved teaching diploma. Can be provisional forever.
- Full Registration - can only be gained in an ECE centre based service, permanent position for at least 12 ½ hours per week. CANNOT be gained in HOME BASED at present.
- Subject to confirmation- For those who have been fully registered AND
 - Working as reliever so can't return to full registration (or less 12 ½ hrs)
 - Returning after full registration lapsed
 - Working in home based after having gained full registration in a centre.
 - Can be this forever also

NB. For those in the business of professional development provision check with teachers council.

Meeting with the Minister of Education Hon Anne Tolley

The Federation met with Anne Tolley to express our ongoing commitment to the Early Childhood Strategic Plan, ongoing commitment to trained and registered teacher target, 20 hours ECE and to ask the Minister's plans around election

promises and other concerns. We appreciated the Minister's frankness but unfortunately the information from that meeting was embargoed by the Minister as many issues are still being worked through. I can say that we will all be watching the Government May budget with interest. Rose Cole and Carl le Quesne from the Ministry of Education will be opening our national conference and presenting a workshop on the changes so we will get it hot off the press. The Minister has stressed her emphasis on seeing every \$ count and that quality and increasing participation, literacy and numeracy are key issues for the government. The government is concerned that although early childhood funding has increased significantly in the last few years this has not seen an increase in participation particularly among Maori and Pasifika.

As part of their election campaign National's policies included;

1. Keeping of the 20 hours free scheme but the dropping of the word 'free' to call it 20 Hours ECE- *Now in place*
2. 20 hours ECE keeping all existing subsidies and fee controls, removing the 6 hour a day limit and include playcentre, Kohanga reo and 5 year olds in the scheme. Also investigate more frequent pay periods - *work in progress. Announcements likely to be made in May Budget.*
3. Allow qualified English-speaking foreign teachers to qualify after an intensive six-week programme and final assessment (followed by a possible probation period) - *work in progress*
4. Promote working while training
5. After 2012, under-twos in teacher led services to be staffed by 50% rather than the current 100% target for qualified teachers. Funding to encourage 100% teacher-led services will remain in place - *work in progress*
6. Montessori, Steiner and Playcentre qualifications to count towards the degree - *work in progress*
7. Staff ratios will be reduced for children under two from 1:5 to 1:4 – *work in progress*
8. Regulations that are seen as unnecessary will be reduced over time. The requirement for early childhood centres with more than 50 children to have more than one licence will be dropped - *Consultation with sector begun*
9. They are opposed to sleep rooms criterion PF37 and believe that parents and ECE centres should choose best sleep arrangements - *consultation with sector due back 16 March*
10. FREEZE upcoming licensing criteria for new and existing services until the completion of further consultation with the sector – *Frozen till 1 July 2009*

Report from ECAC WINZ

- There will be rate increases for childcare and Oscar from 1 April 2009. The thresholds for eligibility will also change slightly. (We will notify you as soon as we get the rates)
- For salary and wage earners who have lost their jobs the maximum stand down period is 2 weeks after holiday pay taken into account for eligibility to unemployment and childcare subsidy. For self employed the last 52 weeks and projected income is taken into account. WINZ officials recommends they still apply.
- The advertised restart package gives families benefits over and above unemployment but must be applied for within 20 working days of redundancy. We need to encourage families to investigate the options. Perhaps invite MSD out to talk to families.

B4 School Checks

These are rolling out much slower than planned from the DHB's around the country. Letters and pamphlets have been sent to all ECE services. Some of you have raised questions around the deficit model that the questionnaire uses. We have raised this at ECAC and to DHB officials along with other ECE organisations repeatedly.

The answer:

The questionnaire/programme was purchased from UK and at this stage can't be changed. It is an internationally tested model. DHB acknowledges this is not the way ECE does things BUT DHB's (and Primary Schools) work on a deficit model - you have to prove that someone needs help, especially to get funding or you won't get help. The worse you look the more help you get.... Parents don't seem to mind answering these questions and initial feedback shows it is producing positive results. The 5 year old new entrant check will still continue as not all children participate in ECE.

RS6I Data

Data from the RS6I we fill out as services in June each year is available on the www.educationcounts.govt.nz website. The Ministry statistics shows that 8% of services are returning this data in September or later which means that data for teacher supply, participation etc can not be calculated in real time which affects us all. So please get these in July as requested by the ministry.

The website has the contact details for an information officer who can be contacted if we wish to know data for our specific region etc.

This is where using software programmes to manage your rolls and staffing makes the data collection a push of a button job. As ECE continues to increase in complexity we would recommend as part of your strategic plan you budget for this software. The Ministry has recommended providers listed and they automatically update for any changes. This website also has a list of ECE services through the country.

Ensuring the Care and Protection of Children Project:

The major focus of this project is to inform the MSD of what is happening now in terms of what government agencies are doing.

Police Vetting

Who and how individuals are vetted in ECE is being reviewed by the Ministry of Education.

Behaviour Summit 16th-17th March 2009

This Summit is a collaboration between the Ministry of Education, ECE, NZEI ,PPTA, national Principals and School Trustees associations to look at a positive strategy for dealing with increasing behavioural issues in young people.

Exemplars

The third and final set of exemplars are going out to services (books 16-20) *Beyond the horizon*. At ECAC we were reminded that they are exemplars Not Exemplary. They are to provoke/stimulate thinking and discussion. The exemplars themselves have changed from the first books as continuous revision happens.

It was noted that at present:

- Portfolios are becoming more accessible to children on a daily basis for children to read and reflect on their own learning.
- The documentation still struggles to record the children's voice.
- Learning dispositions are still not fully understood by teachers. There is more focus by teachers on the child's interest rather than the children building working theories of their world and strengthening dispositions.
- Assessment reflecting bi-cultural practices and diversity still has a long way to go.

Hence- notice the emphasis of the last set of exemplars. If you want more copies contact Learning Media.

Te Whatu Pokeka

A stand alone set of exemplars is being written for services with more than 50% Maori children to be distributed in May 2009.

Teacher Supply

We were given an update on teacher supply which indicated that across the country at July 2008 61% of teachers in licensed ECE services (including homebased coordinators) were ECE qualified and registered. Overall still tracking up slowly as the significant number of new ECE services being established means that we continue to need more teachers. Coupled with the present baby boom it evident to all that that the 2010 (80%) and 2012 (100%) registered teacher targets will have to be pushed out to later years. We continue to lobby that they remain the long term goals and that incentives remain in place for individual services to achieve them.

Canterbury now joins Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Waikato as significantly short of teachers with Auckland remaining the worst.

Discretionary Grants

The Ministry reports that we are still on target for an April 2009 round. For those who have applied and been turned down our advice is to reapply again.

Environment Scan

We have not yet seen much of an effect in terms of services yet was the general conclusion at ECAC. This is due to 20 hrs ECE and WINZ payments helping parents. Some services are reporting families wanting increased hours due to entering training, some cutting back to 20 hours ECE or 9 hours WINZ if losing work. Some pressure on families to keep the space as they look for new work if they have lost their job due to the difficulty of getting spaces due to full rolls. Others reported waiting lists dropping. The main issue is still teacher supply as more services open. Many thanks to those who emailed a response to the environment scan. We will keep you updated as things change.

Conclusion from all this from the National Coordinator and what I am advising my own service:

- ***Continue praying for wisdom and trusting God to what He is asking of you in your own individual services/situations.***
- ***Work as well within your budgets as possible to give some flexibility and room to move as we don't quite know what will happen in terms of funding, rolls as families struggle and government priorities as we ride out the recession.***
- ***Remind staff that salary increases are not automatic but depend on government funding. (This clause remains within the NZEI collective)***
- ***Continue to work towards 100% registered in teacher lead services as this is still the goal.***
- ***Keep a close eye on debtors, 20 ECE hours certainly helps us here.***
- ***This is a great opportunity to link churches and our services if we can support families struggling. Do you have people with skills in veggie growing, shopping for bargains to support parent nights/education?***
- ***Encourage teacher training as a new career option. Scholarships and retraining support are available through MSD and Teach NZ. As discussed at ECAC the best strategy for teacher supply is to grow your own! The government is supportive of training while working so we may see strategies to support this shortly.***

'Give thanks in all situations. In all things be anxious for nothing but by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God'. Phil 1v 3-4

Regards

Alison Ford

National Coordinator