

Early Learning Subcommittee Meeting November 21

Summary of Minutes

Early Learning grant deed and associated deliverables, Early Learning draft budget

The Early Learning Grant Deed has been finalised though a significant holdup occurred. The deed's deliverables are intended to ensure EL issues remain visible, supported and promoted.

ELS Budget: The budget has been developed in consultation with Canberra Preschool Society. The new ELO position operates within Council and administrative tasks are absorbed by Council so there's a need to monitor how EL matters engage all Council staff.

Business arising from previous meeting

- a) Playschools are associate members of Council. We're currently investigating options for them to be full members and the implications for Council and Playschools. Currently, there are many unknowns in relation to 3YO preschool.
- b) Archival materials / Carolyn Harkness (Life Member). Some of Canberra Preschool Society's archival materials remain in the old CPS office. These items will be sent to Carolyn Harkness who has been cataloguing and archiving the materials. Carolyn has been invited to transfer her life membership of CPS to P&C Council. Carolyn has a wealth of knowledge and experience in the sector.
- c) Misinformation about how P&C money can be used (or directed to be used) – several concerns indicate a need to clarify expenses and regulations. P&C's and PPA's have reported some issues around being directed to spend money on items.

Overview Early Learning Officer activities

PlayFest

CECA EL Symposium

Playschools Network Meeting

Directorate Reporting Meeting

EL Communications Review

Early Learning communication material was discussed. Council may want to consider a more targeted approach given the broader audience (Early Learning through to College P&Cs).

Universal preschool for 3 year olds

Council has asked the Directorate for details of current Early Learning data. We continue to monitor the discussion and report to the EL Subcommittee as information becomes available. Also identify opportunities for members and Council to participate and respond.

Preschool curriculum discussion item

Our members have often reported concern regarding children being taught literacy and numeracy in preschools. Our discussion examined the experiences and expectations of parents regarding curriculum in the preschool environment.