

Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership

Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership

Year 1 Workplan Summary

About the ECPP

The [Early Childhood Care and Development Policy Partnership](#) (the Partnership) was established to bring together governments and First Nations representatives to develop recommendations to improve early childhood outcomes for First Nations children and families.

The Partnership has been co-developed with:

- SNAICC— National Voice for our Children (SNAICC), the national peak body for First Nations children and families
- Commonwealth departments with responsibility across
 - early childhood education and care
 - maternal and child health
 - child protection and families.

Objectives

The Partnership will focus on the Priority Reforms and Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 12 and 13 of Closing the Gap, with key objectives of the Partnership including:

- identifying reforms to support First Nations children to achieve their potential in the early years, to set them up for long-term success
- actioning priority reforms in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, particularly First Nations community-led initiatives
- identifying opportunities to work more effectively across governments, Coalition of Peaks and community organisations
- enabling First Nations representatives, communities and organisations to negotiate and implement agreements with governments to support Closing the Gap.

ECPP Year 1 Actions

In support of its objectives, the Partnership agreed to the following actions.

Action 1: make recommendations to Joint Council to improve early childhood outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Action 2: have oversight and drive development of policy reforms outlined in the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Early Childhood Strategy and the Early Childhood Care and Development Sector Strengthening Plan.

Action 3: have high level oversight and address policy reform opportunities and challenges identified in implementing national strategies with existing and aligned partnership governance structures, while

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not duplicating existing governance. This would include, for example, the Safe and Supported – National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021-2031 and the National Plan to End Violence Against Women and their Children 2022-2032.

Action 4: agree on key early childhood policy areas for the Partnership’s consideration, to accelerate progress towards early childhood outcomes.

Action 5: undertake/commission targeted research and policy development processes that advance policy reform priorities identified.

Action 6: consider jurisdictional implementation plans relating to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap early childhood outcomes and provide recommendations on gaps and areas for greater focus.

Action 7: develop an Annual Report to the Joint Council on the actions of the Partnership and its progress against objectives and targets.

Action 8: develop a 3-year strategic plan aligning National Agreement on Closing the Gap priority reforms and agreed key early childhood policy areas.

Action 9: develop a second work plan for 2023-2024.

ECPP Year 1 Deliverables

The actions outlined above have been mapped by the Partnership to a range of key deliverables that will be taken forward in the 2023 calendar year.

Deliverable	Expected completion date
Early childhood policy areas and priorities have been considered and agreed by the Partnership and an approach to progressing these areas has been considered and agreed by the Partnership	June 2023
Plan for oversight and driving policy reforms has been developed and endorsed by the Partnership	June 2023
Targeted research priorities for 2023 are identified and agreed	June 2023
The Partnership reviews and provides recommendations on gaps/areas for greater focus for jurisdictional implementation plans on closing the gap	September 2023
Delivery of a research project on funding model options for ACCOs that deliver Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) including integrated early years services	December 2023
First stage delivery of a cross-sector project to identify efforts required to break down siloes and address social determinants of tertiary systems intervention	December 2023

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Recommendations on improving early childhood outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are delivered to Joint Council	December 2023
Annual report delivered to Joint Council	December 2023
3-year strategic plan delivered to Joint Council	December 2023
Planning commenced for 2024 workplan	December 2023

Partnership Year 1 Workplan

To ensure the Partnership progresses the above actions and deliverables effectively, the Partnership has developed the following Year 1 workplan, which spans the 2023 calendar year with a focus on known deliverables.

Throughout the year, the Partnership will ensure it maintains current knowledge of the early childhood care and development environment and will make adjustments to its workplan to ensure that critical work is prioritised as required. While the Year 1 workplan focuses on meeting-based activities, it will be supported by out-of-session activities from parties and the co-secretariat as required.

Dates	Meeting Activities
Meeting 2 March 2023	<p><i>Theme – Horizon scanning and setting course for the year ahead.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the strategic policy context of the early childhood care and development sector and define the Partnership's role in supporting or driving reform opportunities. • Finalise key set of initial priorities (based upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander early opportunities) to be progressed by the Partnership over the year to facilitate in-depth policy development. • Consider advice and/or recommendations that the Partnership may make to the Joint Council's June meeting. • Commission a targeted research project to support Priority Reform 2 to build the formal Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector. • Establish operating protocols for the Partnership, including out-of-session processes and activities to support the Partnership.
Meeting 3 June 2023	<p><i>Theme – Addressing gaps and building priority areas for reform.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine an approach to a further set of priorities brought forward by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members. • Review current jurisdictional implementation plans and identify opportunities for the Partnership to address any gaps and areas for greater focus. • Confirm timelines for the development of the next iterations of jurisdictional implementation plans, including review points for the Partnership.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the draft findings of the Productivity Commission's Closing the Gap Review • Progress update and discussion of the ACCO early years funding priority project, the cross-sector priority project, and any other agreed priority projects / recommendations
Meeting 4 September 2023	<p><i>Theme – Agreeing the strategic plan for the Partnership.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop three-year strategic plan aligning priority reforms and agreed key early childhood policy areas. • Consider advice and/or recommendations that the Partnership may make to Joint Council's December meeting. • Review available draft jurisdictional implementation plans and provide feedback. • Update on progress of Partnership commissioned research projects and SNAICC research. • Consider impact of recommendations from recently completed recent reviews and projects on early childhood care and development sectors.
Meeting 5 December 2023	<p><i>Theme – Reviewing the first year of the Partnership and where to next in 2024.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree Annual Report to be provided to the Joint Council on the actions of the Partnership and the progress made over the year against Partnership's workplan. • Agree final advice and recommendations to be put to Joint Council. • Review of the first year of the Partnership, its activities and model. • Review available draft jurisdictional implementation plans and provide feedback. • Consider broad areas of focus to target in 2024 with reference to the outcomes of the research project/s commissioned by the Partnership and the ongoing strategic policy reform environment. • Discuss the Partnership's 2024 workplan, including potential actions and timeframes.

Reporting and accountability

Under the [Partnership's Agreement to Implement](#), it will report to Joint Council bi-annually on its activities, including a report annually in writing on:

- recommendations it has made
- actions being taken to implement recommendations
- progress against the objectives of the Partnership
- progress against any relevant Priority Reforms and socio-economic targets in the National Agreement
- any other updates.

The Partnership's annual report will be made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability of its work throughout 2023.