The importance of an accurate count in CCMS

The Commonwealth Government uses the Child Care Management System (CCMS) to facilitate CCB and CCR payments. The Australian Bureau of Statistics also uses CCMS, to measure how many children are participating in preschool programs in long day care services in the year before school. This is measured by services submitting data through CCMS regarding whether each child has attended a preschool program in the service and for how many hours. A preschool program is defined as a structured, play based learning program, delivered by a degree qualified teacher aimed at children in the year or two before they commence full time school.

Services are asked to report this under the ‘Preschool Indicator’ in CCMS. This does not relate to the child attending a community-based preschool, but to whether the child received an educational program delivered by an ECT, including in a long day care centre.

It is critical that, where a child is enrolled in a long day care preschool room where an ECT delivers a preschool program to children in the year before school, long day care services complete the CCMS Preschool Indicator screen.

The Department is aware that many services do not report this currently. Without this, the official statistics do not reflect the actual levels of quality early childhood education programs that we know are being delivered across the sector. It is important that we know this so we are better equipped to monitor and maintain universal access to quality early childhood education programs, regardless of setting.
Smart and Skilled

What are the Smart and Skilled reforms?

From 1 January 2015, Smart and Skilled provides eligible students with:

- an entitlement to government-subsidised training up to and including Certificate III
- government funding for higher-level courses (Certificate IV and above) in targeted priority areas (including Early Childhood Education and Care).

Smart and Skilled introduces new prices and fee arrangements for government-subsidised courses. The NSW Government contributes to the cost of each course and the student pays the balance. Fees are for the whole qualification, rather than by year or semester.

What is the NSW Skills List?

Courses that are subsidised under Smart and Skilled are on the 2015 NSW Skills List. The Skills List defines the qualifications eligible for government funding under Smart and Skilled. The Certificate III and Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care are included on the Skills List.

Can I get VET FEE HELP?

VET FEE HELP has been extended to eligible students in government subsidised Diploma and Advanced Diplomas (including in Early Childhood Education and Care) and selected Certificate IV qualifications. To receive VET FEE HELP, the training provider must be approved by the Commonwealth Government.

Where can I find out more?

A new Smart and Skilled resource is available for students and employers on the Smart and Skilled website: www.smartandskilled.nsw.gov.au

The website contains comprehensive information on Smart and Skilled courses, including apprenticeships and traineeships, new fee information and consumer protection measures.

The website also features an Eligibility Checker and a Course Finder, which enables students to find a Smart and Skilled course and approved training provider that meets their needs, as well as calculate their estimated fee.

Prospective students can also call 1300 772 104 to find out more about Smart and Skilled.

How do the Smart and Skilled reforms affect the early childhood sector?

The Certificate III or Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care are eligible for government subsidies, in order to meet industry need. How much a student will pay for the Certificate III or Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care depends upon the student’s specific circumstances including what level of qualification they have achieved since leaving school.

For example, if a student wanted to enrol in a Diploma and already had a Certificate III, it would cost between $4,380 and $4,930 for the whole qualification or traineeship. For this course, they could choose from more than 20 providers with over 160 delivery sites around the State.

Keeping in touch

Update your contact details by logging onto the NQAITS portal and/or for funded services by logging onto ECCMS.

You can also get in touch with us by:

- visiting our website - www.dec.nsw.gov.au/ecec
- phoning us on 1800 619 113 (general) or 1300 755 426 (funding)
- emailing us on ecec@det.nsw.gov.au (general), ecec.funding@det.nsw.gov.au (funding) or ecextra@det.nsw.gov.au (EC Extra editor)