

## **Early Childhood Education and Care information letter - survey**

Hello,

We are conducting engagement on behalf of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the Department) to inform a needs analysis of the ECEC sector's compliance learning needs with the Family Assistance Law (FAL). This letter provides you with the background and purpose of our engagement to enable you to provide informed consent, should you wish to take part in the project.

Australia has a dual regulatory system for the provision of child care, with state and territory governments and the Australian Government managing different roles and responsibilities. State and territory governments are responsible for ensuring providers are meeting standards for the safety, health and wellbeing of children and for the educational outcomes of children through the National Quality Framework under the National Law and National Regulations.

The Australian Government is responsible for the administration and payment of Child Care Subsidy and Additional Child Care Subsidy for families, under FAL, which sets out the entitlement families have to subsidies and the rules that apply to child care providers who provide subsidised care to children.

By conducting this needs analysis, IPS aims to identify a number of elements to support education requirements of the sector to support understanding of compliance obligations under the FAL and in the context of the Child Care Subsidy.

### **What does my participation involve?**

Your participation will involve completion of the online survey which will take about 10 minutes.

### **What is the purpose of the project?**

To identify the learning needs, challenges, opportunities and impacts on FAL compliance learning.

### **Do I have to take part in this project?**

No, you don't have to take part. Your participation is entirely voluntary and confidential. We won't share your name when we report to the Department.

### **What is the possible benefit of taking part?**

Your input will help shape the design, development and delivery of the Department's learning resources to support the sector's understanding of their compliance obligations with the FAL.

### **What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?**

No risks or disadvantages of taking part have been identified.

### **What if I withdraw from this project?**

You have the choice to withdraw from this project at any point up until we analyse and report on the survey. Prior to that point, if you choose to withdraw, any information you have provided will be deleted and not used for the project. Your withdrawal will be confidential, kept private. If you want to withdraw contact IPS using the details below.

### **Could this project be stopped unexpectedly?**

The project is unlikely to be stopped unexpectedly. However, with the uncertainty of Covid there may be delays in data collection which may impact on the scheduled date of project completion.

### **What happens when the project ends?**

IPS will provide a report to the Department to inform about the ECEC sector's FAL compliance learning needs.

### **What will happen to information about me?**

The information you provide will be deidentified and stored by IPS until completion of the project. Your name will not be recorded with the information. None of the information you provide will be used for any other purpose and, when the project is complete and the report finalised, we will destroy the information (permanently delete digital versions and shred any hard versions).

### **Complaints and remuneration**

If you have any complaints about the project, one of our consultants or any other aspect related to this project you are invited to contact the Chief Research Officer Dr Katie Roe on 0448 971 314.

All complaints will be treated with respect and confidentiality. There will be no remuneration for participating in the survey.

### **Who is the organisation funding the research?**

The project is funded by the Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

### **Who has reviewed the project?**

The project has been reviewed by IPS Management Consultants and the Department.

### **Further information contact**

- IPS Chief Research Officer Dr Katie Roe on 0448 971 314.
- Department of Education, Skills and Employment Mimi Chu-Gourlay (02) 6121 8482

Yours faithfully,

Dr Katie Roe