

National focus on early learning will be strengthened by new measuring tool

28 September 2023

The Australian Government, states and territories announced today that a trial of a new Preschool Outcomes Measure (POM) will begin in 2025.

The POM is a key reform being jointly progressed by the Australian, state and territory governments and will aid early childhood teachers and educators to monitor and report on the learning and development of preschool aged children across Australia.

“Following on from key recent initiatives such as the National Early Years strategy, the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Early Childhood Education, and the [Draft National Strategy for the Care and Support Economy](#), the announcement of the POM further illustrates that Australia is serious about harnessing the benefits of quality early childhood education and care,” said ELAA Early Learning Association Australia (ELAAA) Interim CEO, Teri Smith.

The POM will assist early childhood teachers and educators to optimise learning within their services by:

- enhancing the teaching experience and supporting them to meet requirements under the National Law to assess and document children’s learning
- minimising workload by streamlining existing processes
- understand a child’s strengths and capabilities
- plan for suitable next steps in children’s learning and development.

“ELAA welcomes the announcement of the Preschool Outcomes Measure initiative,” said Ms Smith. “It will provide another tool with which to build a national repository of learning outcome data which can be used to foster best practice in early learning that is evidence based, controlled in its use, and derived from validated learning frameworks.”

Focusing on two developmental domains including executive functioning and oral language and literacy, the POM will align with existing supporting scaffolds for quality pre-school such as the National Quality Standards (NQS) and Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). It is intended that the POM will be used to monitor children’s learning outcomes in the year before school (usually four-year-old kindergarten programs).

“Importantly, Early learning services will have the option to use familiar state-based diagnostic tools, such as Victoria’s Early Years Learning and Assessment Tool (EYLAT), to report via the POM.

Children will not be aware their learning and development is being monitored so there is no risk children will develop any measurement related anxiety. Everyone will be re-assured to know that the results will not be used to publicly comment on teacher or educator performance,” said Ms Smith.



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The results gathered through the POM will not be publicly available or be used in any kind of ranking of children or early learning services, and POM results will not be tied to service funding.

Participation in the POM trial will not be mandated and will be entirely at the discretion of individual early childhood education and care service providers.

For more information on the Preschool Outcome Measure visit the Australian Department of Education Website at <https://www.education.gov.au/early-childhood/preschool/preschool-outcomes-measure>

To arrange an interview with ELAA Interim CEO, Terri Smith, please contact ELAA's Communications and Marketing Specialist, James Gardener, at jgardener@elaa.org.au or 0413483182.

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