
Office for Children and Early Childhood Development Advisory Group

UPDATES FOR NOTING June 2009

TRANSITION: A POSITIVE START TO SCHOOL

Background

- The *Transition: A Positive Start to School* project aims to improve children's experience of starting school by providing their families and educators with a learning and development statement and enhancing the development and delivery of transition programs. A key output of the project will be the development of a resource kit to improve transition to primary school approaches. The resource kit will contain:
 - best practice models and process for transition to school planning that can be adapted to the needs of individual communities; and
 - a common template for the learning and development statement.
- The *Transition: A Positive Start to School* resource kit, learning and development statement template and accompanying resources will be ready for launch and implementation from Term 3, for children starting school in 2010.

Current Status

- **Pilots:** The 30 pilots formally concluded on 20 May 2009. Final reports and findings have been submitted and are currently being reviewed. University of Melbourne is undertaking a formal evaluation of the pilots. The evaluation report will be finalised by 29 June 2009.
- **Literature Review:** The final literature review has been received. The executive summary has been made available through the project website.
- **Regional Workshops:** A series of 14 regional workshops has been undertaken to provide an opportunity for early childhood and school educators to provide feedback on regional transition practices and contribute to the design of the learning and development statement and supporting resources (over 1,100 attendees)
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The project's Advisory Group and Practitioners' Reference Group remain supportive of the project and are providing feedback on key issues.
- **Policy Development:** Feedback on key policy development issues and draft transition learning and development statement template and guidance documents provided at DMC on 1 June. An implementation plan is currently being developed.

Next Steps

- Resource Kit, including learning and development statement template and summary policy document to be circulated for internal consultation in early June.
- Trial of the transition learning and development statement will be held between 9 and 25 June 2009.
- Ministerial launch of resource Kit, including learning and development statement template and summary policy document in July 2009.