

Thriving Kids: Focusing on ECEC settings webinar June 2026. Presented by Sam Page (CEO – ECA)

Questions and comments from the chat

As requested, we have de-identified and included key questions and comments from the webinar chat. Answers are provided within the webinar [video](#).

Links provided:

[Advisory Group Report](#)

[Bilateral Agreements](#)

[Queensland information](#)

1. Who is defining mild support needs and moderate support needs?
2. Will the allied health services under the Targeted Supports branch be government funded or funded by the families?
3. Is my thinking correct in that this is not replacing ECEI, but complimenting it?
4. It would be nice to see ECEI Educators referenced as well as Allied Health.
Anoo response: Yes we were very respectful of ECEI educators and see a place for this under universal as well as targeted supports - it is not just allied health - we hope that rolls out
5. My question is about the impact of Thriving Kids in early childhood settings, would this support have an impact on Inclusion Support? I worked in the EI space for the NDIS and a lot of childcare services rely heavily on Inclusion Support to assist them with children.
6. Where do we find out more information about this for Vic? I understand NSW is already at the stage of providers placing an EOI to register?
There is not much made public but this article [here](#) or [here](#)
7. Thanks for the session. I have two questions: 1) how will an early intervention centre actually be funded to deliver targeted allied health supports under the Thriving Kids scheme? 2) for the large cohort of children with low-to-moderate needs who do not have access to NDIS packages, what is the actual subsidy mechanism families will use?
8. Do we know what level of implementation will occur by Oct 2026, then Jan 2027 and finally Jan 2028?
9. From Cape York, NPA and TSI region - has there been any consultation in these communities?
10. indirect clinical support needs careful documentation to avoid rogue actors taking advantage of funding
11. Would you say the intention of the moderate supports (allied health supports specifically) is to establish supports in addition to what is available for families now? For example, there is very, very little available in my region.
12. Does ECA provide practical examples/ case studies of successful interprofessional collaboration. E.g. in magazine/ PD? The practical implementation of quality collaboration, participation focus, can be hard to

deliver in ECEC because some Teachers/ educators expect withdrawal for therapy, or lack the information/ education to lead this confidently. Often centres not connected with ISA, which is voluntary. But even then, there's often a focus on extra staff (not improved skills) and result in equal improved opportunities through adjustments/adaptations to ensure inclusive program. It is happening and is successful in some centres but led by experienced ECI practitioners and high quality services.

13. There are families with no access to the internet - data or technology and many parents with low functional and health literacy skills
14. Need for holistic approach by AH on issues and barriers for working with child in busy home and preschool/school environments
15. I think we really need to think about the families with no family GP, don't go to child care for a variety of reasons, no phone, no internet, no money for data.
16. How can members of PRECI and/or ECA support advocacy to ensure that implementation in their individual State/Territory reflects both the principles you overviewed and the Best Practice Framework?
17. Sam, sorry if you've mentioned this already, but what considerations have been made for additional funding for ECEs to have time away from classrooms to collaborate with teams so they are able to work effectively as part of an interprofessional team to ensure sustainability / prevent burnout?
18. It would be good to have standard National checklist/assessments that ECEI educators could use as well as Allied Health.
19. Does the thriving kids program intend to establish new community funded and delivered allied health supports? I am concerned about families still being forced into paying for private supports due to extensive waiting lists.
20. Functional goals with many barriers such as mentioned above home bound children and parents with limited technology For example What is one or 2 key goals at this stage that will make the biggest difference across developmental areas
21. For clarification with the different levels of supports is there requirements to move from one level to the next eg. parenting programs before more targeted supports?
22. Important to include AHW's and AHP's in the considerations around workforce development too ...Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners
23. Can you speak to what an early childhood educator might experience/identify when there is good collaborative/interdisciplinary practice?
24. Will Inclusion support be better resourced in some states? It would be good to have Allied health as part of these teams.
25. University training AH of inclusive embedded intervention needed
26. I hope that the implementation of best practices will be monitored- worries me that this will be a tick box
27. Need for skills training AH in consultation practice for specific environments e.g. preschool vs. public / private school
28. How are we supporting our ECEC space with training and development to identify individual needs and scaffold children's learning?

29. What do you think is the most important element or weaknesses we should advocate for in the model?
30. Stronger understanding /input to AH of Early Childhood and Stage 1 Education curriculum needed. This speaks to collaborative and functional embedded goals
31. Just wanting to note that a big concern for me is the importance of significantly increasing the skill level of EC Educators to fully include children with developmental concerns, delay or disability in their services so that these children experience positive outcomes. It's so important.

From Samantha Page : spage@earlychildhood.org.au