



Terms of Reference

Preschool Outcomes Measure Expert Advisory Group – updated Terms of Reference

Context

The Preschool Reform Agreement (PRA) is a \$2 billion agreement in place between the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments (States), designed to provide continued support for universal access to 15 hours of preschool for every child every week, as well as a collaborative reform agenda to improve preschool data and attendance, as well as preschool outcomes over time.

One of the key reforms under the PRA is the development and trial of a new national Preschool Outcomes Measure (POM). An Expert Advisory Group (EAG) was established to help guide the establishment of policy parameters for the new POM. The EAG was in place from 2021 to 2023.

Education Ministers agreed policy parameters for the POM when they met on 5 October 2023, via *PRA Appendix A.2 - Preschool Outcomes Measure Trial*. The development work is being undertaken by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and involves 4 phases over the next two years, with development and validation occurring from May 2024 to March 2025, and a national applied trial being held in the latter part of 2025.

A 'refreshed' EAG now needs to be established to support the development and trial process throughout 2024 and 2025 and into the first half of 2026, as well as to provide advice on potential future directions for the POM.

Scope

The EAG will be available to provide expert advice on the development, trial and potential future directions for the POM throughout 2024 and 2025 and into 2026, as required.

The EAG will be available to provide advice to:

- The Commonwealth Minister for Early Childhood Education;
- The Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), who are responsible for the development and trial of the POM;
- The Department of Education; and
- All governments, collectively, via the Early Childhood Policy Group (ECPG), AESOC and/or EMM.

The Commonwealth will provide executive and financial support for the EAG. ECPG will endorse any advice that is commissioned on behalf of all governments and the Commonwealth will coordinate the provision of any such advice back to ECPG.

Role of the Preschool Outcomes Measure Expert Advisory Group

The EAG is a group of subject matter experts appointed by the Commonwealth Minister for Early Childhood Education on behalf of all governments to provide ongoing consultation, advice and support relating to the POM development, trial and potential future directions.

The EAG may be called upon to provide advice on deliverables developed by ACER, including draft versions of the new national learning progressions and materials developed to support the sector with trialling the measure.

The EAG will include members that are well placed to provide advice on priority considerations for the new POM, including:

- Inclusivity – the need for the POM to be appropriate for all children including children from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, children of varying abilities, and children with varied development trajectories or experiences;
- Data storage and sharing arrangements;
- Trial arrangements and how to best support the sector; and
- Future directions.

Deliverables may include:

- Meeting as a group to discuss issues and formulate advice;
- Provision of verbal and written advice;
- Participation in meetings as required, including the POM Working Group, ECPG, AESOC and EMM; and
- Provision of advice on products prepared by ACER through the development process, including draft versions of the new national learning progressions and materials developed to support the sector with trialling the measure, to help Senior Officials and Education Ministers make determinations about suitability for endorsement.

Further details

- Members of the EAG will provide individual advice independent of any body or organisation they may be employed by, contractually connected with, or usually represent. They will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement and declare any potential conflicts of interest, either perceived or actual.
- Members will be remunerated in accordance with the *Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-time Public Office) Determination 2024*.
- The EAG will be appointed from the date the member accepts the appointment until 30 June 2026.

