



Preschool Outcomes Measure

Expert Advisory Group Terms of Reference

Context

The 2022-25 preschool funding agreement between the Commonwealth and States and Territories incorporates a reform agenda to increase children's participation in preschool and drive quality, including through the development and implementation of an outcomes measure.

The outcomes measure should demonstrate how preschool helps prepare children for the transition to school. It should provide robust baseline data to assess the 'value add' of preschool and help refine our understanding of what works. It should be child focussed, and could include consideration of elements of quality, dosage and learning approaches.

Measurement should form a nationally consistent repository of data so ongoing monitoring can:

- support continuous improvement in preschool delivery;
- provide capacity to assess whether evidence is being applied in practice; and
- ensure all children reap benefits from preschool education.

Role of the Preschool Outcomes Measure Expert Advisory Group

The Preschool Outcomes Measure Expert Advisory Group (the Group) will provide written advice on development of a preschool outcomes measure to the Australian Government Minister for Education and Youth.

Deliverables will include:

- Preliminary advice on options for proposed measure or measures
- An options paper for the Minister covering:
 - parameters of a proposed outcomes measure or suite of measures;
 - next steps for development of measure(s); and
 - recommended structure of a trial of the measure(s) for 2023.

The Group will be available to provide further expert advice on the development of outcome measures up until the end of the appointment period.

Members will primarily contribute expertise through professionally facilitated collaborative meetings and workshops conducted online. They may be asked to provide written input and comment on draft documentation.

Members of the Group will provide individual advice independent of anybody 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.

Scope

The Group will consider and provide evidence-based advice on:

- the elements or factors in preschool participation that improve or impact transition to school (noting preparation for school is not limited to numeracy and literacy skills);
- the feasibility of measuring these elements to formulate an overall measure of school readiness;
- existing measurement tools used in Australia;
- the international experience, including existing measurement tools; and
- potential new outcome measures, or adaptation of existing measures, that could be prototyped and developed through 2022 for trial in 2023, implemented in 2024 to collect baseline data, with a view to measuring improvements from 2025.

Period of appointment

The Group will be appointed for the period 1 September 2021 to 30 June 2022, with an option to extend.