

Inclusion Ready News

Issue 10 – July 2022



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IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome back to Term 3.

We hope you have had some opportunity to relax over the holiday break.

In this issue we are excited to tell you the details about the continuation of our contract to provide the Sector Capacity Building Program.

We also share information about the Inclusion Gateway website, upcoming professional development, and DIP funding information – including High Learning Support Needs (HLSN) and Minor Capital Works (MCW).

Welcome to KU's Sector Capacity Building Program

We are pleased to announce that KU Children's Services continues to be contracted to provide the Sector Capacity Building (SCB) program for our existing preschools for the next 12 months.

We also warmly welcome new regions across Sydney metropolitan and regional NSW for this new contract. With this considerable growth in our program, recruitment is actively underway to expand our team of Preschool Inclusion Consultants.

We are excited that we are able to work alongside you and your team to build educator capacity to include all children in your program. If you require support from the team at the KU Sector Capacity Building program, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. We are here to help you!

Inclusion Action Plan

In the new contract, the Department of Education has asked us to discuss an '**Action Plan**' with each preschool to plan how you would like your inclusion support tailored to your needs. Discussing your Inclusion Action Plan is another way of focussing on specific inclusion goals to address any inclusion barriers at your preschool.

You may like to refer to the following pieces in this newsletter below, "What do we do?" and "How can we help?" and start thinking about the best way you can utilise our support for your preschool's needs.

Your Preschool Inclusion Consultant will contact you soon to arrange a time that suits you to set up your action plan and what form you would like your support from us to take for term 3 and the next 12 months.

What do we do?

Preschool Inclusion Consultants are funded by the NSW Department of Education to:

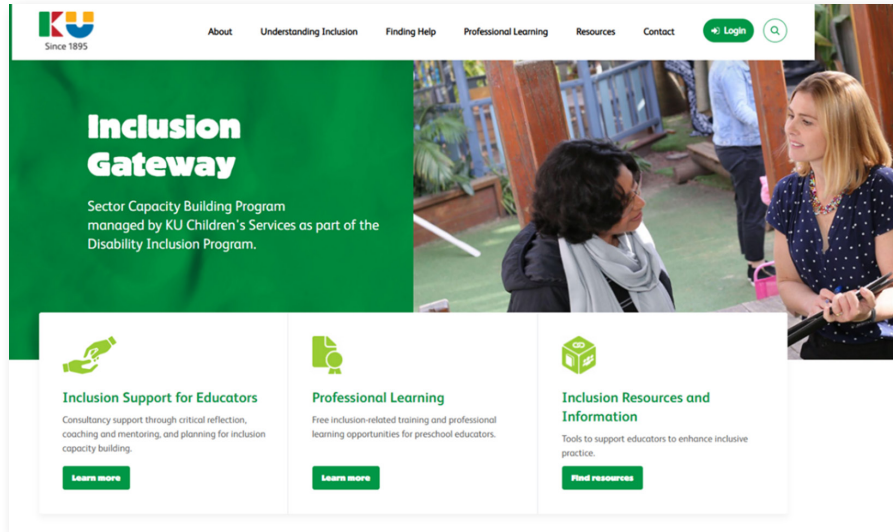
- ▶ **Increase educators' capacity** to include children with disability and additional needs on the same basis as their peers
- ▶ Increase educators' capacity to provide specialised **transition to school supports** for children with disability and additional needs
- ▶ **Enable equitable education outcomes** for children with disability and additional needs consistent with the five outcome areas of the Early Years Learning Framework (Identity, Connectedness, Wellbeing, Confident and Involved Learners, Communication)
- ▶ Support educators to understand the **external support options** for children with disability and additional needs, and how these supports can be used to complement the preschool program

How can we help?

Your preschool is entitled to at least 8 hours a term of support from the Sector Capacity Building Program. Here are some of the ways your consultant can help:

- ▶ Talk over the phone to discuss inclusion priorities at your preschool
- ▶ Provide free inclusion consultancy visits to your preschool
- ▶ Provide free professional development and networking sessions, both face to face and online
- ▶ Coach and mentor educators and support them to reflect on inclusive practice
- ▶ Support a team approach to guiding children's behaviour
- ▶ Support you to collaborate with visiting professionals, e.g. therapists
- ▶ Link you with support such as applying for Disability and Inclusion Program funding for children with high learning support needs
- ▶ Provide current information about where to refer families for further support
- ▶ Search for information and relevant resources to support your inclusive practice
- ▶ Please note that travel time also makes up part of the time allocated to your preschool

Quick guide to the Inclusion Gateway website



For all preschools who are new to our program, you now have access to our Inclusion Gateway website. It contains a wide range of inclusion information, online professional development, podcasts and resources that can support you in your work with children and families. Of course, everything you find here is free to access.

We encourage your whole team to check out the Inclusion Gateway website on a regular basis as it is frequently updated with new resources and information

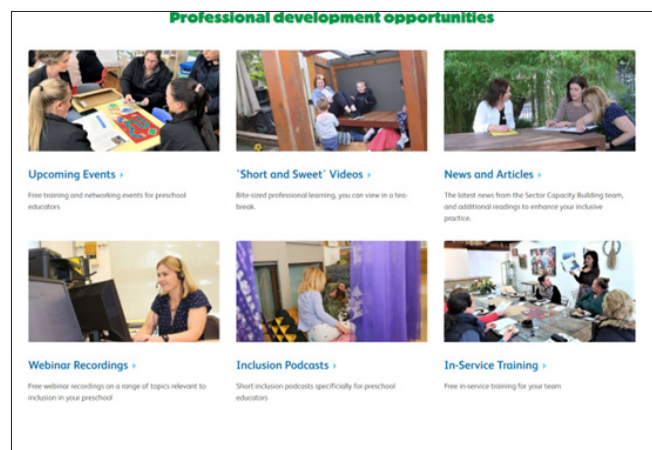
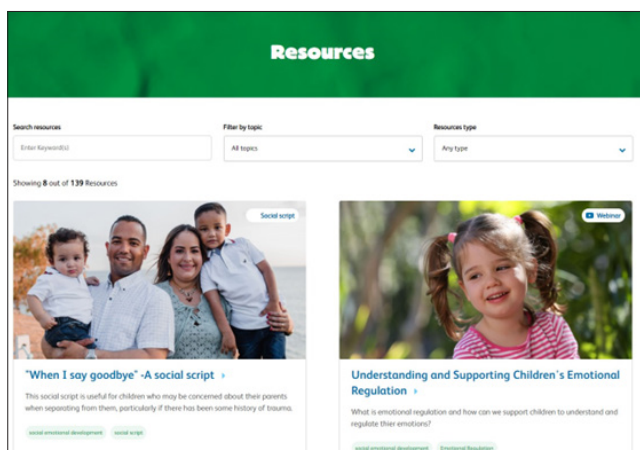
www.kudisabilityinclusion.com.au

One new easy log in for all preschools:

We have streamlined access to the KU Inclusion Gateway website with a new login and password for all preschools to use:

Username: **CommunityPreschool**

Password: **CommunityPreschool**



Upcoming Term 3 Professional Development

Supporting transition to school for children with disabilities – Free Live Webinars

Presented by your Preschool Inclusion Consultants

Preschool educators are uniquely placed to support families in their child's transition to school due to the strong trusting relationships they develop with parents and carers.

This webinar will examine the current transition to school processes across all school settings and the role educators can play in supporting a smooth transition for children with disabilities and their families.

Learn about:

- ▶ A community-wide approach to preparing for school
- ▶ How and when to begin the transition to school processes
- ▶ How the NDIS may impact on transition to school
- ▶ Supporting families to understand the system and advocate for their child
- ▶ Applying for schools across the public, Catholic and independent
- ▶ School systems
- ▶ The range of class types
- ▶ Learning support in mainstream schools
- ▶ Sharing information about children's learning with the new school
- ▶ Links to free resources

NESA standards: 1.5, 1.6, 3.7, 7.3, 7.4 NQS quality area: 6

Webinar Details

Please note: This same webinar will be presented twice – please choose the date that suits you best.

Dates: **Tuesday 2 August OR Thursday 11 August**

Time: 4:30pm

Location: Online webinar

Cost: Free

Register here for Tuesday 2 August

<https://kuchildrensservices.arlo.co/register?sgid=c7442b800e4041ec810eca1c708140d1>

Register here for Thursday 11 August

<https://kuchildrensservices.arlo.co/register?sgid=2f3bcbb8096f4f699e744aef85fbc6b3>

Having Challenging Conversations with Parents

At times educators need to talk with parents about areas we think they might find challenging, such as their child's development or behaviour. This free face to face workshop presented by Bronwen Elliott, independent social worker and trainer will support you with having challenging conversations with parents. Bronwen will explore these challenges with educators by presenting challenging conversation through the lens of a model of change, and providing practical strategies.

This workshop aligns with these National Quality Standards:

- ▶ 1.3.3 Information for families
- ▶ QA6 Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- ▶ Professional Standards for Teachers 2 hours of elective PD towards maintaining NESA accreditation can be claimed under:
 - Standard 7: Engage professionally with colleagues, parents/carers and the community

This professional development activity can be used towards teacher identified hours. Teachers need to record this activity in their NESAs online account.

Workshop Details

Date: **Wednesday 17 August**

Time: 4:45pm - 7:00pm

Location: Burwood Uniting Preschool, 134A Burwood Road Burwood, close to Burwood station

Cost: Free

More information and register here:

<https://kuchildreancesservices.arlo.co/courses/1734-having-challenging-conversations-with-parents?e=87c7c6c0756741ff9276bbe40758f071>

Free inclusion webinar series for early childhood education and care services

STAR Association is providing free inclusion webinars across the second half of 2022. The first webinar in this series introduces participants to the concept of early childhood inclusion for children with disabilities and developmental delays, including ethical and legal obligations and best practice in early childhood intervention. The following three webinars assist participants to plan for and implement research-based Individual Learning Plans for young children with disabilities/delays in collaboration with their families and other professionals. The fifth webinar focuses on the transition to school for children with disabilities. After each webinar participants will be invited to attend smaller, interactive follow-up webinars and to join a facilitated peer community.

This webinar series has been funded through the NSW Department of Education's Sector Development Program. For more information and to register, visit:

<https://www.star.org.au/what-we-do/early-childhood-early-intervention-webinar-series/>

More face to face PD coming soon!

We are planning for a number of free face-to-face professional development events to be delivered across all regions in Term 3.

These will include a range of relevant topics including Emotional Regulation; Positive Behaviour Support; Having Challenging Conversations with Parents and Nurturing Communication.

These workshops are also a great opportunity to network with other educators in your region.

Keep an eye out in your emails and on the **Inclusion Gateway** for more details and information about how to register.

Everyone is welcome to attend any of these workshops regardless of the region you work in. We hope to see many of you there!



Applications for scholarships to attend the 2022 Early Childhood Australia National Conference – now open

Conference Scholarships are available for in-person and virtual tickets for the ECA National Conference to be held in October 2022! If you meet any of the following criteria, **apply by 29 July**: bit.ly/3P8fEGP

- ▶ Individuals/small organisations working in regional, rural or remote locations;
- ▶ Practitioners supporting disadvantaged or at risk children;
- ▶ Individuals who have been financially impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Disability and Inclusion Program Funding cut-off date reminders

High Learning Support Needs and Minor Capital Works funding applications for Quarter 4 must be submitted by **5pm Friday 19 August 2022**. Funding is for October to December 2022.

Please contact your Preschool Inclusion Consultant if you need help with preparing funding applications. Any question you may have is a good one!

**2022 HIGH LEARNING SUPPORT
NEEDS FUNDING GUIDELINES**

**2022 MINOR CAPITAL WORKS
FUNDING GUIDELINES**

Please let us know of any specific support you may be needing.

*The Sector Capacity Building Program is funded by the
NSW Government Department of Education.*
