



# Regulatory Roundtable Summary

<b>Date</b>	29 October 2024, Meeting 3
<b>Location</b>	ESB Boardroom, Level 6, 131-139 Grenfell St, Adelaide / via MS Teams
<b>Chair</b>	Kerry Leaver, Chief Executive, Education Standards Board
<b>Participant organisations</b>	<p>Kate Ryan - Preschool Directors Association of South Australia;          Nicholas Smith &amp; Frances Boatwright- Happy HavenOSHC;          Eleanor Behrens &amp; Carrie Johnson - Community Childrens Centre South Australia;          Komala Champion - YMCA SA;          Susan Jackson &amp; Amy Graham – Early Childhood Australia;          Bronwyn Donaghey – Australian Independent Schools, SA (AISSA) (via Teams);          Elizabeth Death – Early Learning and Care Council of Australia (ELACCA) (via Teams);          Ngari Boehm – Proxy for Tobias O’Connor, SA Primary Principals Association (SAPPA) (via Teams);          Kathryn Jordan - Department for Education (via Teams);          Tara Harnett – Goodstart Early Learning (via Teams);          Merrilyn Hannaford - Family Daycare Educators Association of SA (via Teams);          Annie Bryce &amp; Michelle Densmore – Edge Early Learning (via Teams);          Catherine Matthews – Guardian Childcare and Education (via Teams)</p>
	<p>ESB Director Regulatory Practice and Operations, Sean Heffernan;          ESB Director Reform, Audra Cooper;          ESB Manager Compliance and Investigations, Kimberley White;          ESB Manager Policy and Engagement, Yvonne Baulderstone</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Mark Corrigan &amp; Neil McGoran – Catholic Education SA (CESA);          Chelsea Davy - Camp Australia;          Alicia Flowers – Out of School Hours Care SA (OSHC SA);          Helen Ketley - Stepping Stone (SA) Childcare &amp; Early Development Centres;          Jackie Jackman - Australian Childcare Alliance SA;          ESB Manager Regulatory Operations, Ailsa Fahy;          ESB Assistant Director Regulatory Reform, Cameron Carroll;          ESB Manager Quality Assessment, Amanda Nash</p>
<b>Next meeting</b>	Tuesday 18 February 2025

Item	Discussion/points raised	Presenter
1	<p><b>Welcome/apologies and Acknowledgement of Country</b></p> <p>The Chair, Kerry Leaver, opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed attendees.</p>	<i>Chair</i>
2	<p><b>2024-2027 Strategic plan</b></p> <p>The new Education Standards Board Strategic Plan for 2024-27 outlines our role and vision as a regulatory authority. We aim to regulate the provision of education and early childhood services by identifying and reducing present and emerging risks to minimise harm to children and young people and maintain high standards of competence and conduct by providers.</p> <p>The Board have worked to make sure that the vision and mission align more closely to our functions and roles. The plan incorporates the four Es that make up our regulatory approach: Educate, Engage, Enforce, Evaluate.</p> <p>The plan shares our five values of honesty and integrity, sustainability, accountability, professionalism, and collaboration and engagement. The strategic priorities are informing our current practice and the priorities including collaboration and engagement with the sector are key drivers behind why we convene the Regulatory Roundtable and are delivering the education and guidance program.</p> <p>The targets outcomes featured in the strategic plan keep the ESB accountable to our mission and goals. In addition, we will be releasing service standards and targets in the November bulletin.</p> <p>The strategic plan is a living document that is designed to challenge us and move with us as we meet and hopefully exceed our targets and goals.</p> <p>The roundtable briefly discussed the positive transparency in sharing and explaining the Strategic Plan and agreed that relationships are reciprocal and that further leveraging these partnerships will be of mutual benefit.</p>	<i>Kerry Leaver</i>
3	<p><b>Sector survey action plan</b></p> <p>In the July Regulatory Roundtable meeting, Director of Regulatory Practice and Operations, Sean Heffernan, described the results of the Sector Survey that took place in May 2024, facilitated by ACECQA.</p> <p>There were some insights that the ESB felt required more exploration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communication</li> <li>• compliance-related interactions</li> <li>• engagement with the sector</li> <li>• information provision</li> <li>• performance.</li> </ul> <p>To facilitate this, a sub-group of the Regulatory Roundtable was convened. Participants in this group were Edge Early Learning, Goodstart Early</p>	<i>Sean Heffernan</i>

	<p>Learning, Happy Haven OSHC and Community Children’s Centres. They provider further information and experience in relation to these topics.</p> <p>We have developed an action plan in response to the sector survey results. It is intended to not only address each of the areas identified in the survey but also align to the strategic priorities and outcomes in our 2024-27 Strategic Plan.</p> <p>The action plan was presented and will be publicly shared in the November regulatory bulletin. It will also be available to access on the ESB website.</p> <p>The communication deliverable requires further time and analysis before we can share an action.</p> <p>The Roundtable discussed how administrative burden is being addressed through the action plan and the impacts of National regulations and ACECQA’s policies and resources. The CE outlined the work of the ESB’s reform team in minimising double up of processes and paperwork.</p> <p>The Roundtable also discussed the timing of the next survey, currently proposed for 2026, and how services being assessed under the 2018 framework for the first time could impact some outcomes.</p>	
4	<p><b>Trends in compliance</b></p> <p>The Manager of Compliance and Investigation, Kimberley White, presented on the current trends in compliance. The purpose of the presentation was to highlight the things that we are seeing when we are going out to services and identify the associated risks so that we can support voluntary compliance.</p> <p>Current concerns from a compliance basis, and being noticed in assessment and rating activities, are supervision, the outdoor environment and communication.</p> <p>Supervision issues include children not being actively supervised and wandering off, particularly in outdoor areas. Children may not be seen from where educators are standing to observe, and the environment may not be conducive to full vision. Large areas and when children are moving from inside to outside can be difficult to manage, and we’ve identified a lack in application of policies and procedures such as headcounts and communication to ensure all children are accounted for. It was clarified that there is no prescriptive expectation in relation to headcounts and supervision and that these practices should be outlined in the supervision plans of each service in a way that meets the unique environment and expectations of individual services.</p> <p>Maintenance of outdoor environments is also a current concern. Trees, bushes and weeds being overgrown creates difficulty in supervision, may compromise the integrity of fencing as they grow and with weather, and can be used as climbing frames leading children to egress. Additionally, hose lines being left out and not packed away properly is a hazard to children.</p> <p>The Roundtable discussed risk mitigation and the balance between a safe environment and one that features natural elements to support the play and development of the children at the service. Kimberley reiterated that it’s about</p>	<p><i>Kimberley White</i></p>

	<p>maintenance and supervision, rather than totally removing elements such as trees that may pose a potential risk or hazard. This includes having up-to-date risk mitigation and supervision plans in every service, communicated with all educators and supervisors.</p>	
5	<p><b>Education and guidance program</b></p> <p>Manager of Policy and Engagement, Yvonne Baulderstone, outlined the education and guidance program for the remainder of the financial year.</p> <p>The ESB will run two sessions. The first will be an Assessment and Rating based session that builds on previous presentations. We will be working with peak bodies to facilitate these sessions in-person, and there will be opportunity to submit questions and topics you'd like to hear about beforehand. Each session will be tailored to its audience. There may be scope for a webinar style session following the in-person sessions, which we anticipate will begin to take place from December 2024.</p> <p>The question was raised on how to make sessions engaging for regional participants with feedback welcome.</p> <p>The second session will be on e-Safety and will follow the Child Safety Review that is currently in discussion. These sessions will be run online, and will take place in the last quarter of the 2024-25 financial year.</p> <p>The Roundtable queried whether there are any existing resources or guidelines related to eSafety and discussed what is referred to and followed within their services.</p>	<p><i>Yvonne Baulderstone</i></p>
6	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>The Chair opened the floor to the Roundtable.</p> <p>The Roundtable presented the difficulty in finding information and resources to refer to across ACECQA and the ESB. The ESB is assessing our website's functionality and search function in the hope that we can redevelop the site for ease of use, we will consult regulatory roundtable members to give feedback when considering any major change to the website, likely in 2025/2026. In our monthly bulletins we crosslink information and resources repetitively to make them as easy to find as possible.</p>	<p><i>Kerry Leaver</i></p>
7	<p><b>Meeting closed – 11.01am</b></p> <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 18 February 2025.</p>	