

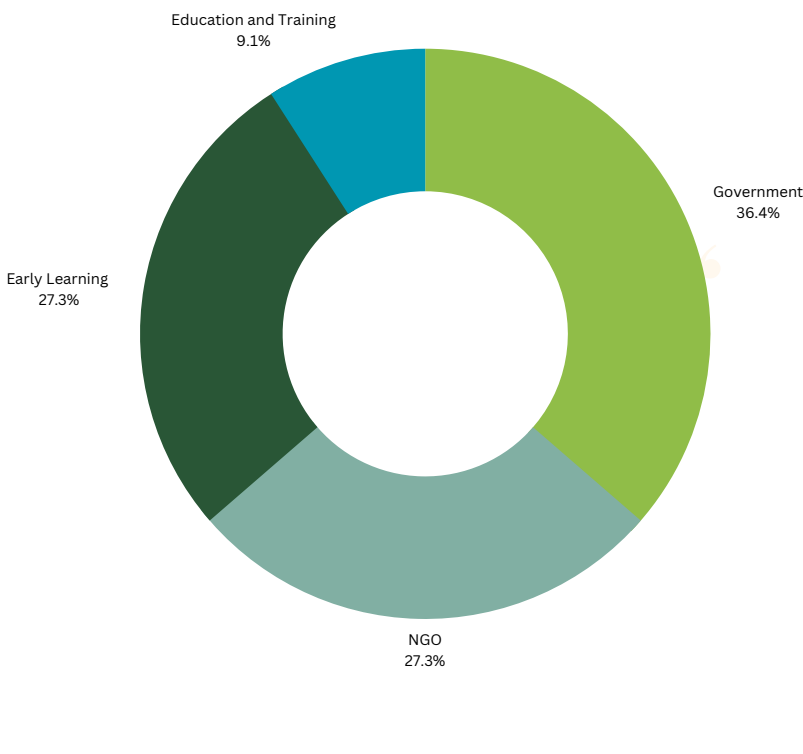


FNECN

Far North Early Childhood Network

Quarter One Report 2023

Reporting Partners



Training to be Delivered in 2023

- Transition to Prep
- Training to ECEs
- Let's Count
- Let's Read
- Circles of Security Classroom Approach
- Tailored parenting programs
- NDIS training
- Disability and Diversity in the Early Years
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Aspiring Leaders Program

Training needs for the Region

- Network facilitation skills. Art of Hosting
- 3a - Abecedarian Approach
- Human Resources
- Managing difficult people and situations
- ASQ Trak
- Engaging with families, referrals & building knowledge of the early years and supports available.
- Speech

Regional Strength, Needs and Focus Areas

Things to Celebrate in the Early Years

- The changes occurring around how we look at child development and the exciting space we are moving into with better education around inclusion.
- Beginning of the establishment of a new ECCN in Kuranda.
- State Government's new Kindy for all funding to offer 40,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged families free or cheaper kindy. <https://earlychildhood.qld.gov.au/early-years/kindergarten/what-does-kindy-cost/kindy-savings>.
- Our growing connection with local traditional owners, fostered through partnership with Catholic Education.
- Strengthening of collaborative partnerships within the early childhood disability space.
- Torres and Cape HHS will commence the establishment of a Perinatal and Infant Mental Health service across the second half of the year.
- The opportunity to work with passionate educators, amazing young people, and supportive community.
- First PD of the year was full, in part from the sharing of information through the network.
- Writing a chapter on the early years and education for inclusive education textbook to be used with training teachers in the sector. This is due to be published early 2024. I am excited to be using some Cairns contexts and examples to support case studies for training of Early Years Teachers across Australia.
- The support available for families on the Southern Corridor of Cairns.
- Partnership with Ngamumu who deliver culture and art workshops to mothers in the first 1000 days. These have been very well received by the community.

Major Needs/Gaps in the Region

- Data-informed practice for system improvement.
- Continuity of transition to school practices.
- Referral pathways and effective upskilling of professionals.
- Perceived risk of competition for funding.
- Low kindergarten attendance in some communities.
- Staffing and workforce shortages, particularly in remote areas.
- Staff retention.
- Allied health services in rural and remote communities.
- Providing emotional maturity support and adapting to different age groups.
- Parent engagement and feedback.
- Inclusion for children with disabilities.
- Consistency of planning for educators in prior-to-school settings.
- Restrictive practices in the sector.
- Recruitment of casual ECE staff to cover absences.

Regional Focus Areas

- Early Childhood and Inclusive Education.
- Meeting the needs of children and families / Connection with community.
- NDIS access and plan utilisation/ NDIS Early Support, providing capacity building supports.
- Establishing connections with early childhood service providers within Kuranda.
- Building positive relationships.
- Cross Government collaboration to create an Early Years' Hub in remote Indigenous Communities.
- Co-operation with Qld Health project to ensure all Cape and Torres children have equitable access to developmental screening and referral services.
- Successful transition to kindy and Prep for children with disability, developmental delays and concerns.
- Supporting families through education, via sustainable partnerships & access to what's necessary.
- Early years professional development & collaborative connections to build capacity within families as first teachers, & the services they access.
- Broader community understanding referral process and support that can be provided.
- Through the establishment of PIMH Service, promoting and supporting the Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing of women, infants and families across the first 2000 days. Focus 2 - Provision of quality MH services (promotion, prevention, early intervention and treatment) for all ages groups across the TCHHS catchment area.
- Family Support including universal program delivery Kindergarten.
- Recruitment.
- Leadership.
- AEDC data - emotional maturity, parent participation in feedback/ involvement.