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| Children's Education and Care Assurance Alert |
| *The Children’s Education and Care Assurance Update links professionals, providers and educators with news, resources and information that supports quality outcomes for children in ACT education and care services*November 2020**Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program** The Early Childhood Policy and Regulation Branch of the ACT Education Directorate is committed to increasing the number and profile of degree-qualified educators in the ACT. The 2021 Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program has now commenced. This Program will provide up to eight (8) individuals, working in the ACT non-government education and care sector, with financial assistance to gain an approved early childhood degree qualification. The 2021 Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program offers:* Funding of up to $25,000 per scholarship, for full time or part time study
* Encouragement to employers to contribute to the funding, enabling higher numbers of scholarships to be offered
* Funding to employers to backfill staff while they are on study placement
* Funding to employers for students to attend a four-week placement in CECA in their final year of study and
* Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program deeds between the student, employer, and ACT Government.

Applications close on **31 January 2021**.To request a 2021 Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program information pack please email Children's Education and Care Assurance at CECA@act.gov.au or call +61 2 6207 1114.**Supporting effective supervision and transitions**At this time of year, many children experience multiple transitions between education and care settings and their community. Implementing effective supervision during these busy times will assist educators to provide safe and secure environments for children. CECA encourage providers, service leaders and educators to work together and prioritise regular assessment and continuously improvement of transitions and supervision strategies. Supervision strategies should be adjusted to: •             Consider the design and arrangement of children’s environments•             Reduce and prevent injury; and •             Make decisions about when children’s play needs to be interrupted or redirected•             Ensure there are effective transitions of children between service types and schoolsThe [Education and Care Services National Law](https://campaign.acecqa.gov.au/t/i-l-pjrdrll-jllkkkiiud-n/) requires that children must be adequately supervised at all times (s165). Providers and nominated supervisors need to be aware that simply meeting the minimum staffing ratio requirements set out in [Education and Care Services National Regulations](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/subordleg%2B653%2B2011%2Bcd%2B0%2BN) will not guarantee that all children are being adequately supervised at all times. Providers, nominated supervisors, co-ordinators and educators have an obligation to ensure that adequate supervision of children who are being educated and cared for at the service and on excursions is maintained at all times. Effective and adequate supervision prevents and reduces accidents and incidents through early detection of potential hazards and an awareness of children, and their activities. For more information please read [ACECQA's Active Supervision Information Sheet](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/search?s=Active+supervision). Additional resources about effective transitions are available on the [Be You website](https://beyou.edu.au/fact-sheets/development/transitions) and in [Continuity of Learning: a resource to support effective transition to school and school age care](https://docs.education.gov.au/documents/continuity-learning-resource-support-effective-transition-school-and-school-age-care) document. **Educational programs and practice** Quality educational programs and practice enhance children’s learning and development and aligns with the approved learning frameworks the [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/media/24251) and [My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/media/24641). The learning frameworks form the foundation for ensuring that children in all education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. Regulation 75 requires information about the educational program to available, with the contents and operation of the educational program accessible and on display for families. **Recording transportation arrangements in NQAITS**Additional [safe transportation of children requirements](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/latest-news/education-and-care-services-national-amendment-regulations-2020-safe-transportation) came into effect on 1 October 2020. Providers and services are required to notify the Regulatory Authority if they are providing transport by using an SA12 form change of information about an Approved Service. Provider and Services can update their transportation services status using the NQAITS. For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email CECA@act.gov.auThis email has been authorised by the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA). CECA are responsible for administering the National Quality Framework within the ACT |

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