



FACT SHEET

INFORMATION FOR KINDERGARTEN COMMITTEES

WHAT IS EARLY YEARS MANAGEMENT?

Early Years Management (EYM) organisations have expertise in the delivery of high quality early childhood education and care services.

Formerly known as Kindergarten Cluster Management (KCM), EYM will continue to strengthen the management and delivery of community-based kindergarten programs.

What are the benefits of EYM?

Parents may only be on committee for 12 months and often don't have the time or experience to run all the aspects of the service and build its quality. By joining an EYM organisation, parents can focus on improving the educational program for their children, rather than accounting, performance management of staff, managing Department funding and meeting reporting requirements. These requirements have increased substantially in recent years with the introduction of the National Quality Framework.

Is EYM right for my kindergarten?

The decision to move into EYM arrangements should be based on improving the future quality and viability of the service. Parent volunteer Committees of Management will lead this process on behalf of the incorporated association, and in close consultation with parents and the local community including local government.

Often, committees only consider EYM arrangements when the service is in crisis, but it is a good idea if committees consider joining EYM periodically so that the transition can be planned with the least disruption for families.

EYM organisations operate different models and committees should understand what's available in their area and to know what's right for the service.

Will all kindergartens be required to join EYM arrangements?

No, all kindergarten services delivering a funded kindergarten program continue to have the choice to enter EYM arrangements.

Why the move towards EYM?

The move towards EYM is designed to reduce the management and administrative burden on volunteer committees and support kindergartens so they can continually increase the standard of their services.

As we understand more about the importance of a child's early years, early childhood education and care services are required to do more and more.

It can be difficult for parent volunteer committees to comply with the many legal requirements of running a service, or to lead the service in improving teaching quality. When a service run by a parent volunteer committee joins an EYM organisation, all the legal, financial and professional responsibilities that come with being the approved provider of a kindergarten services are transferred to the EYM organisation. The EYM organisation maintains a strong relationship with parents so that the service continues to meet the needs of families in the local community.

The new EYM Policy Framework and EYM Kindergarten Operating Guidelines clarify the roles and responsibilities for parent groups and EYM organisations; so that parents know what they can expect from their EYM organisation and how they can contribute to the educational program at the service.

What's involved in joining EYM?

Below are the key steps and critical questions for Committees of Management

1. Committee of Management undertakes a research process

What is EYM and how could it work for us?

2. Committee of Management identifies and assesses prospective EYM organisations

What EYM organisations operate in my area and how do their models differ?

3. Committee of Management considers long term implications of their structure

If we join, will our incorporated association still be needed?

4. Committee of Management decides whether to join

Will EYM improve the quality and viability of our service?

The Department and the Early Learning Association Australia (ELAA) can provide support during this process

What will change if our service joins an EYM organisation?

What will change depends on the specific EYM model you join.

Parents will no longer be responsible for managing the service; this will become the responsibility of the EYM organisation. For example the EYM organisation will be responsible for:

- Setting the service budget and parent fees
- Collecting parent fees and Department funding
- Employing staff, including organising relief educators
- Improving the quality of the service including providing professional development for educators

- Licensing requirements under the National Quality Framework
- Dealing with parent complaints
- Reporting to the Department

What will stay the same?

- Children will continue to receive an educational program based on an approved learning framework, such as the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework
- Parents will continue to be involved in the service, although in a different, advisory role

Where can I go for further information?

For further information please about the policy and guidelines please visit:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/edcare/Pages/eym.aspx>

You can also visit the ELAA website that has an information kit that will help you think through the benefits and process for becoming part of EYM arrangements.

https://elaa.org.au/services_resources/free_resources