

My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia

by Jan McFarlane

A draft of Australia's first framework for school age care is now available for comment. Designed to be used by educators in all settings where there are school age children, *My Time, Our Place: Framework for School Age Care in Australia* aims to extend and enrich children's learning through a range of play and leisure experiences. It is closely linked to *Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia* (EYLF), which focuses on children from birth to five years.

Is *My Time, Our Place* only relevant in outside school hours care services?

My Time, Our Place has been designed to be used in outside school hours care services as well as in long day care centres and family day care schemes that provide care for school age children. While this does mean that some services will need to use the EYLF and *My Time, Our Place* concurrently, both of these learning frameworks have a similar structure and are underpinned by comparable principles, practices and outcomes. This will help to ensure a seamless transition for children moving from early childhood to school age care services.

How was *My Time, Our Place* developed?

A national steering group has been formed to guide the development of *My Time, Our Place*. There are State, Territory and Commonwealth

Government representatives on the steering group, as well as representatives from the National Outside School Hours Services Association (NOSHSA), the Primary Principals Association, NCAC and the Australian Parents Council (the national federation of non-government school parents' organisations). An academic consultant was appointed to write the Framework.

Public consultations were held throughout Australia from 5 November to 3 December 2010.

How is *My Time, Our Place* linked to the National Quality Standard?

The principles, practices and outcomes described in *My Time, Our Place* are reflected throughout the National Quality Standard, which will be fully implemented in child care services in 2012. There is an expectation that these principles will be reflected in the service's philosophy and that educators will be able to demonstrate how they use *My Time, Our Place* to guide their relationships with children and families.

Quality Area 1 in the National Quality Standard is titled 'Educational program and practice'. There is a specific reference to the EYLF and *My Time, Our Place* in this Quality Area and services will be expected to use either or both frameworks to inform the development and delivery of their programs.

Where can I get a copy and/or more information about *My Time, Our Place*?

A copy of *My Time, Our Place* can be downloaded for comment from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) website. A discussion paper, frequently asked questions and information about how to provide comments on the draft Framework are also available on the NOSHSA website (www.nosha.org.au) ■

