

THIS AGREEMENT VARIATION is made on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2010

BETWEEN

**The Authorities of the Australian Government**

AND

**States and Territories of Australia**

Collectively "the Parties"

**BACKGROUND:**

- A. The Parties entered into a multilateral agreement dated February 2010 ("the Principal Agreement") for the purpose of ensuring the availability of a nationally consistent, quality information base for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC), to support policy and program developments, and reporting and accountability requirements.
- B. A consensus by all Parties is required to amend the Principal Agreement.

**IT IS AGREED** as follows:

- 1. Unless the contrary intention appears, words used in this Agreement Variation have the same meaning as in the Principal Agreement.
- 2. The variations set out in this Agreement Variation take effect on and from the date of its execution.
- 3. The Parties affirm in all other respects the covenants and conditions in the Principal Agreement as varied by this Agreement Variation.

**The Variations:**

- 4. At sub-clause 6.1.2 of the Principal Agreement, delete the text and replace with the following:

The ECDSG will be the authority for resolving issues relating to the Agreement, including advising the Early Childhood Development Working Group (ECDWG) (and the Strategic Cross-sectoral Data Committee (SCDC), through ECDWG, on cross-sectoral issues), of national priorities and the national Work Plan, under the auspices of the Ministerial Council for Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs (MCEECDYA) through the Australian Education, Early Childhood Development and Youth Affairs Systems Officials Committee (AEEYSOC).

5. At sub-clause 6.1.4 of the Principal Agreement, delete the text and replace with the following:

Where appropriate the ECDSG, through the ECDWG, (and when relating to cross-sectoral issues also through SCDC), will liaise with other Ministerial Advisory Councils, and provide feedback on their activities under the Agreement to AEEYSOC and MCEECDYA.

6. At sub-clause 6.3.4 of the Principal Agreement, delete the text and replace with the following:

The ECDSG will report the annual work program and budget to ECDWG.

7. At sub-clause 7.1.2 of the Principal Agreement, delete the text and replace with the following:

The functions of the ECDSG, in relation to the activities in the Agreement, are to:

- oversee the development, implementation and review of the national ECEC Information Agreement and Work Plan
- make recommendations to ECDWG (and SCDC, through ECDWG, where relating to cross-sectoral issues), on national ECEC information priorities, work programs, evaluation, funding implications and other information policy issues
- develop cooperative structures and working arrangements within existing processes and structures
- contribute to strategic monitoring of data development activity within the ECEC field and other relevant sectors
- develop and endorse, as appropriate, a National Minimum Data Set for ECEC, make arrangements for its implementation, and promote development of related standards, definitions, classifications and protocols across the scope of the Agreement
- develop and foster a cooperative working relationship with associated Committees, with particular emphasis on integrating and harmonising standards, definitions and classifications wherever possible, and integrating activities and joint work program activities
- make contributions where appropriate to the conceptual basis and coordination of data linkage activities, and
- consult with relevant non-committee groups and individuals across ECEC sectors, including providers and consumers, on national ECEC information issues, and represent them as required to the ECDSG.