MISSION
To promote best practice provision of food within ECEC services to facilitate positive short and long term nutrition, health and development outcomes for children who attend care.

BACKGROUND
It is well known that nutrition in the first 1000 days is critical to the short and long term health outcomes of an individual. ECEC services are a crucial setting to influence children’s nutrition during a critical period for their growth and development and when the foundation for healthy eating habits are laid. ECEC services frequently provide meals and snacks to children while they are in care, long day care centres may provide 40-60% of a child’s daily food intake. This setting provides an opportunity for improving children’s nutrition.

The NNG-ECEC Group was formed to provide a national lens to support the National Quality Framework coordinated by ACECQA, to facilitate consistency of information, and support research and practical application of evidence-based learnings. To support change in ECEC food provision services, the NNG-ECEC Group endeavours to;

• facilitate discussions relating to research and professional development to drive future agendas.
• support and facilitate nutrition research translation into best practice.
• share expertise and knowledge to avoid replication of research and resources.
• collate evidenced-based professional development opportunities and resources.
• support continued improvement of service delivery.
• build an evidence base of ECEC nutrition research.
• support advocacy and influence sector stakeholders through knowledge exchange.

COLLABORATION
To optimise the mission and purpose of this group, we encourage external organisations including; government and non-government groups; universities; and members of the community to contact NNG-ECEC with relevant recommendations to support this sector. We are particularly interested in receiving updates on current and potential resources, and any research ideas that will support practical translation.
NNG-ECEC Advisory Group Members

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