Keeping personal information secure and private

The Privacy Act requires careful treatment of all personal information, and this law applies to the ELI system.

The Ministry will use the information collected in ELI for the purposes of educational research, statistics, monitoring, reporting and resourcing.

Consultation with early childhood education services would take place if there were to be changes made to the use of the information collected.

Early childhood education services should limit the use of APT to authorised people only. Limiting access to APT will help you to meet obligations for the careful treatment of personal information under the Privacy Act.

To find out more information about the Privacy Act and how to comply, go to: www.privacy.org.nz.

How can I find out more about the ELI project?

Further information about the ELI project and about how your service can prepare for ELI can be found at: www.lead.ece.govt.nz

Key words: Early Learning Information project.

Contact us at: ELI.queries@minedu.govt.nz or 0800 ECE ECE (0800 323 323)

What does the Early Learning Information system mean for early childhood education services using APT?
What is the ELI system?

1. The **Early Learning Information (ELI)** system is a new Ministry of Education information system for early childhood education. It will collect and store information on enrolment and attendance in early childhood education for approximately 180,000 children throughout Aotearoa.

2. Early childhood education services will be able to send information automatically to the ELI system from within APT.

3. ELI will improve the ability of both the early childhood education sector and the Ministry of Education to access and exchange information electronically.

4. The link to the ELI system will be made available to all services using APT progressively from February 2014.

5. The ELI system will replace the paper-based early childhood education census (known as the RS61).

6. The system is intended to form the foundation of a new funding system for early childhood education in future years.

What does my service need to do to be ready for ELI?

The ELI system will be available to early childhood education services progressively from February 2014.

Most information required by the ELI system is already captured in APT. This means that there will be limited changes required to your processes.

You will be contacted about the changes to the APT system before the link to the ELI system is put in place.

What will the information collected in ELI be used for?

Information will be used for educational monitoring, reporting and research, and for the development of new initiatives.

Information will be collected at least monthly from approximately 4,200 early childhood education services including: kindergartens, home-based services, playcentres, and education and care centres. Information collected will include each child’s:

- full name, date of birth, address
- home language, ethnicity and iwi
- daily attendance at early childhood education.

Some information about staff will also be collected.

While the ELI system will only collect information about children and staff in early childhood education at this stage, when data is fully quality assured the system is intended to form the foundation of a new funding system for early childhood education.

What training and support will be available?

The training needs for services are being assessed with APT. The Ministry of Education will make the following types of training and support available:

- Online training and step-by-step instructions
- Print-based user guides
- ELI information sessions
- The Ministry of Education Call Centre **0800 ECE ECE (0800 323 323)** or email ELI.queries@minedu.govt.nz

What is a National Student Number?

The National Student Number (NSN) is a unique education number that is allocated to children enrolled with an education service.

This currently happens when each child starts school and the NSN is used throughout their education. The ELI project will mean that an NSN is allocated earlier.

Information about each child’s attendance in early childhood education will be recorded against this number.

Allocation of National Student Numbers

So far, 100,000 children in early childhood education have been given an NSN.

As your service is using APT, you can now create NSNs for all children currently enrolled at your service and for any new enrolments. This means that by 2014, your service will be better prepared to send information to ELI system through APT.

How will my service access the ELI system through APT?

APT and the Ministry have already started work on the link to the ELI system.

In addition, planning has already started on how information will be sent to the ELI system from APT and how often it will be sent.

At this stage APT plans to send the required enrolment and attendance information to the Ministry automatically on a weekly basis.