

## Future Visioning with Children - Information for Future Visioning Leaders

*Article 12 of the Convention of the Rights of the Child states: Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.*

We are so pleased that you are joining the diverse range of key stakeholders from across Australia who are hosting conversations with children, families and communities to contribute their lived experience to shaping collaborative visions for the future of the early learning system.

The creation of a vision for early learning in Australia will enable us to develop strategies and pathways, build shared aspirations, and work together with a shared sense of purpose and connection, transforming the early learning system into one where every child, family and community can thrive.

As part of hosting future visioning conversations in your organisation or community, you will be facilitating two futuring activities that will enable participants to think about desired futures for early learning and environments that would enable them to thrive. The activities are intended to be run in the same way with children and adult participants and have been designed to make them meaningful to children, and at the same time allowing for comparisons to be drawn across adult contributions from the same activities. This means that children's voices can be included and have equal weight in shaping collaborative future visions for early learning and influencing policy.

This information pack provides all that you need to implement the two activities with children and/or families and other professionals and capture the outcomes.

Thank you for joining our journey to a future of early learning that reflects the optimism, quality, diversity, cultural safety and sustainability that we know help children thrive.

We can't wait to see the outputs from your community, and share back with you the insights from across Australia.

Yours Sincerely,



Jane Hunt  
Chief Executive Officer  
The Front Project



## Role of the Future Visioning Leader

The role of the Future Visioning Leader is to co-ordinate the implementation of the two activities with children in your organisation. This will include the following:

- Ensuring the Collaboration Agreement is signed by the authorised person in the organisation and returned to the Front Project.
- Completion and collection of all Consent and Assent forms from children and their parent/guardian.
- Ensuring educators, or those implementing the activities have access to the learning and support materials, including the instruction videos and have sufficient time to ask questions and clarify understanding before undertaking the activities.
- Ensuring all materials are available and accessible to the educators or those implementing the activities on the day of running the activities.
- Ensure that all data and outputs are collected and uploaded within the recommended timeframes to Drop Box via the secure data upload link unique to you.

## Ethics Statement

The ethical considerations and principles informing the design and implementation of the Future Visioning with Children project are intended to provide guidelines on how this project supports the ethical and responsible participation of children and young people.

Please take the time to read the Project Ethics Statement carefully, and ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about before you commence the implementation of the activities.

## Collaboration Agreement

A collaboration agreement has been prepared, and legally reviewed. The agreement aims to define the relationship between the organisations and defines their respective responsibilities.

The Collaboration Agreement is required to be signed by an Authorised person from both organisations.


**Once the Collaboration Agreement has been signed by both parties, the complete pack of practice guides and consent forms will be sent, and implementation of the activities can commence.**

## Consent and Assent

Prior to implementation of the two activities, each parent/guardian must provide their permission for both their own engagement and their child's engagement in the activities. The permission includes how data and outputs will be collected, used and destroyed.

## Child Safety and Wellbeing

The Front Project and the Apiary hold children at the centre and recognise the need to genuinely listen to and include the voices of children and their families in decisions that emerge from the changing context in which they live.



Listening to children is central to recognising their voice, opinions and views on decisions that directly impact them. In 1991, Australia ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which specifies the right of children and young people to have their opinions taken into account on matters that effect their lives (Article 12, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

Participation is also a key principle in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Under Article 18, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people expressly have the right to participate in decision making in matters that affect their rights. The rights of Indigenous children are also given special attention at Article 22. Participation and consultation must be consistent with the principles of free, prior and informed consent. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people must be respected and treated as key stakeholders in developing, designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating all policies and legislation that influences their wellbeing.

Underpinning all of our work and decisions that impact on children is the Safe and Supported: National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2021 – 2031.

This ensures that children and young people in Australia are able to thrive and feel safe and supported and are free from harm and neglect.

The Collaboration Agreement defines the requirements of each organisation to keep children safe from harm and neglect during the implementation of all the activities associated with the project.

*Clause 5.3 of the Agreement states:*

Child Protection Laws

The Organisation acknowledges that they are aware of the requirements in the State or Territory where the activities will be conducted, of the Worker Screening Act 2020 (VIC), as it relates to Working with Children Checks, or equivalent in the State or Territory and all related laws concerning child protection (Child Protection Laws).

The Organisation must ensure that it complies with:

- a) the requirements of the Child Protection Laws in their relevant State or Territory; and
- b) policies of The Front Project relating to child protection as notified to the organisation if and when relevant.

The Organisation must, at its cost, verify that the Organisation and its personnel are not a prohibited person under any Child Protection Laws and undergo any other screening, such as the 'Working with Children Checks', as required under Child Protection Laws or by The Front Project. Any of the Organisation's personnel who are a prohibited person must not be engaged in providing any activities or services.

## Implementing the two Activities

Following this submission of the signed collaboration agreement, you will receive a Future Visioning Leader Information Pack, containing all the resources needed to support you through the process.

Activity 1: Postcards to the future (photo elicitation)

Each participant will be provided with a set of 5 photos. They will be asked to choose the photo that resonates with them the most and answer the question: *What is your vision for the early learning system?*

Activity 2: Landscapes of the future (3D system modelling)

Groups will be given a loose parts box and asked to create a landscape using the range of materials to create a desired future.

Detailed practice guides and the postcards will be sent to host organisations as part of the Future Visioning Leader Info Pack.

There will be a series of learning sessions for Future Visioning Leaders and their teams scheduled via Zoom, to support the implementation of the activities and to provide an opportunity for you to connect with other participants and to ask any questions. Details of these sessions will be sent via email so that you can register for a session that is convenient to you.

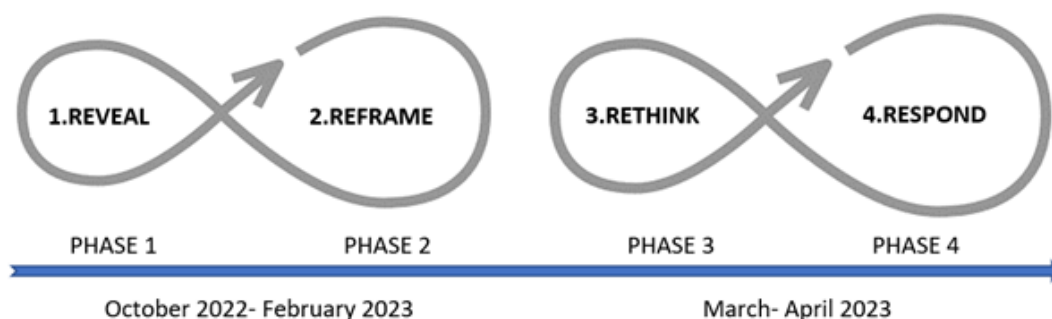
The content of the sessions will include:

- Collaboration Agreement explained
- Information and discussion about the Ethical Principles and Considerations
- Information and discussion about the Practice Guides
- How to use and adapt the Consent and Assent Forms for your organisation
- Unpacking the Toolkit Resources
- How to access resources in your community for the loose parts
- How to capture the outputs and where to return those outputs
- Question and Answers

## Data and Output Collection

The data and output collection from the visioning conversations will generate a rich bank of insights about desired futures for the early learning system. These outputs from the conversation series will be curated and shared. Insights generated will provide critical information that can inform strategy development across a diverse range of early years issues.

Our goal is to continue to move through phases 1 and 2 (reveal and reframe) during the visioning process across Australia from now through to February 2023.




Phases 3 and 4 (rethink and respond) will be part of the sensemaking process in 2023, when collective visions gathered from across Australia will be collected, analysed and explored.

## Data Security and Safety

The data collected, whether written, recorded or images, from the 2 activities will be collected by the Front Project electronically via the Future Visioning Leader for each host organisation. The visioning conversation data collected by the Leader will be submitted to the Front Project through a secure data transfer using Drop Box, unique to their organisation. The data transfer is one-way only and no data relating to other host sites will be visible or able to be accessed.

Future Visioning Leaders will be sent their unique data upload link after the collaboration agreement has been returned and a date proposed to run the activities in their organisation.

Any Images and/or Recordings captured as part of the project data collection will be collated into a project image library for later use in analysis and generation of project reports and



communications products. Recordings are for project use only to capture children's responses in their own words and will not be used in public communications. Non-identifiable Images may be used for project communication and advocacy purposes by the Front Project, or in media (including print, television, radio and the Internet), events, showcasing the involvement of local centres, organisational publications, the Front Project website and communications, such as newsletters relating to this project. Non-identifiable Images may also be used on the Front Project's social media pages including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter to disseminate information about the project.

After the project has ended, only de-identified, anonymised data will be stored on the secure Front Project server, in a restricted access folder. As the data collected for this project involves children, all data will be destroyed 15 years after the youngest child's 18th birthday in accordance with ethical records retention and disposal guidelines.

Please refer to the Transforming Early Learning Ethics Statement for detailed information about the appropriate use and storage of data for the project.