

Turn it up



**Early Childhood
Australia**
A voice for young children

QLD Branch: PO Box 685 • Spring Hill QLD 4004 • ecaql@earlychildhood.org.au

ABN 42 169 824 830

NOVEMBER 2010

"I hope that you and your family enjoy some time for rest, relaxation and fun times during the Christmas period and look forward to another busy 'early childhood' year in 2011"

Jo Darbyshire

From the President



Dear ECA Members and Friends

Last Friday, rushing from my son's Year 12 Graduation Ceremony to my kindy group's Christmas concert, I reflected on how quickly the years between Kindergarten and Year 12 have passed. Decisions and discussions about which early childhood service, which school, suitable extra curricular activities (and how many), birthday party invitations, friends over to play and so on seemed so quickly replaced with subject selections, parties, sport vs music, career options, formals, university choices, gap years and options for the dreaded 'schoolies'...Along the way there have been wonderful times, friendships formed, proud and anxious moments, sleep deprived nights, debates, discussions and tough decisions, trips to hospital emergency departments for x-rays or stitches, packed lunches, Eisteddfods and concerts, hours of driving, waiting times, nagging and encouraging, homework checks, parent/teacher interviews, meetings, fetes, fundraisers, sporting events, tears, laughter and incredible growth and change. The youngest of my 3 sons has left school and with 20 consecutive years in the education system this seems a major milestone for our family.

We all know that education is a lifelong journey. Thank you to all of you who work in the care and education sector; each one makes a contribution to the life and journey of sons like mine and their families and we appreciate all your efforts. Working in early childhood with families who are beginning the 'formal' part of this journey I want to remind them of how quickly it flies by. I am also mindful of the trust parents have as they begin to share their child and family with others. What a wonderful and important responsibility those of us that work with young children have.

The ECA conference held in Adelaide at the beginning of October offered an opportunity to learn, question, reflect, challenge, network, observe, purchase and reaffirm.

1200 delegates attended the conference and I'm sure all left with a renewed passion for the importance of the early years and the need to support families and provide high quality services. Queensland branch invited all the QLD delegates to an informal evening function to meet colleagues from our state and hear about state initiatives, issues and concerns.

Prior to the conference, ECA held its annual Council meeting. Four members of the QLD Branch to discuss national reforms, share perspectives from each State, reflect on the direction of early childhood in Australia and how ECA might continue to work towards its strategic plan. As this was held just after the Federal election there was an opportunity to discuss what the election results might mean for the National Reform Agenda. ECA has been assured by the current government that it is still firmly on their agenda and will continue to go ahead. There have been many recent initiatives (see next paragraph) demonstrating its progress and we hope you have an opportunity to be a part of these. At the council meeting there was also discussion on the names of the new governments ministries and how they seemed to create a perceived divide between early childhood education and care. ECA had already raised this issue with the relevant Government Ministers and the concerns were noted, with reassurance that there is no intent to create this division.

Forums have been offered in each state of Australia throughout November to offer information on the National Quality Framework. These have included: - an update on the implementation process; information on the new draft assessment and ratings process; the new legislation and regulations and consultations on My time, Our Place framework for school age care in Australia. If you were not able to get to these forums I hope you find time during December and January to visit the DEEWR web site (<http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Pages/default.aspx>) and read the relevant information so that you can respond to the changes that will have a huge impact on our early childhood services.

The Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) has approved the new Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines (QKLG) which has been developed and introduced specifically for Kindergarten children in this state. It aligns with the Early Years Learning Framework and approved Kindergarten programs funded by the Qld Government will be required to deliver a program that uses the QKLG or they will need to contact QSA to have another learning guideline accredited as suitable for a Kindergarten program. The QKLG includes a process for monitoring and reporting children's learning and a 'transition statement' to assist continuity of learning as children and families transition from Kindergarten to Prep. The Queensland Kindergarten Learning Guidelines are available to download from the Office of Early Childhood Education and Care web site (<http://education.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/>) QSA are in the process of developing some Professional Development materials to support the guidelines.

ECA Queensland News Updates will be placed on the Queensland website at the beginning of each month so check it regularly!
<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au>

To join, contact our national office: PO Box 105 • Watson ACT 2620 • Ph 02 6241 6900 • Fax 02 6241 5547 • email: national@eca.org.au • web: eca.org.au



Central Governing Bodies

To support the rollout of access to Kindergarten programs for every Queensland child by 2014, the Queensland Government has announced 5 Central Governing Bodies (CGBs)

.....

ECA Queensland Branch is delighted with the choice of CGBs for QLD Kindergarten services as we feel that each organisation aims to offer high quality Kindergarten programs and support for program staff. ECA is looking forward to working with each of the CGBs, as well as Long Day Care Services that offer a Kindergarten program, in achieving this goal.

The CGBs are:

- C&K
- Independent Schools Queensland
- Queensland Catholic Education Commission
- Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services and
- The Gowrie (QLD) Inc.

Members of each of the CGBs were invited to meet with the QLD ECA committee to be congratulated on taking on this important new role and also to spend time sharing information, concerns, ideas and future needs and wishes. The CGB members were also invited to talk to ECA about how we might support the CGBs, Kindergarten services and staff from these services.

The role of a CGB is still being finalized but may include:

- administering the Queensland Government funding to their member services
- guidelines for policy frameworks
- Professional development for staff
- Links between services for support and networking

Moving towards 2014 there are challenges ahead for both the Government and the CGBs. Below are only some of the obstacles:

.....

- ***At this stage it looks as if Qld will not have enough qualified staff***
- decisions need to be made about new services
- different ways of access for children from regional and remote areas need to be creatively explored
- ***Community awareness of what a high quality Kindergarten program can offer needs to be increased***
- the future for current community services needs to be thoughtfully considered
- ***Awards for teachers and how staff might meet the 15 hours per week requirements is an issue***
- children with additional needs and support for these children needs to be considered; how to meet the needs of children who need a delayed entry or a second year of Kindy are only some of these obstacles.
- CGBs will need to work with the Government as they come up with solutions for many of these obstacles and some that have not been thought of as yet.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/earlychildhood/kindergarten/central-gov-bodies.html>

As this very important dream of access to a high quality Kindergarten program for every Queensland child by 2014 is implemented we all need to work together to achieve the best outcomes for children and families.

.....



Central Governing Bodies (CGBs) at a glance

C&K: The Queensland Government has chosen C&K to be a Central Governing Body (CGB) for the distribution of the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme (QKFS) to our CGB members.

With a long and proud history of providing support and assistance to community kindergartens C&K will continue under the new funding scheme. C&K will work with services, assisting them to provide high quality education and care and with communities to encourage enrolling children in a kindergarten program. C&K will continue to support parent volunteer committees with information, resources and guidance, assisting them to fulfil their responsibilities and navigate through ongoing changes in the early childhood sector. C&K offers a range of CGB membership options. *For more information please contact C&K's CGB team by email: cgb@candk.asn.au or phone 1800 177 092*

Independent Schools Queensland Central Governing Body is a body facilitated by Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ).

ISQ is a non-profit organisation which serves, represents, supports and promotes the interests of Queensland independent schools. ISQ works closely with all political parties, government departments and the community, promoting the policies and interests of independent schools and the parents who support them. ISQ provides advice and support to member services to assist them in offering inclusive, quality educational opportunities for children in their local and the wider community. Independent Schools Queensland CGB is excited about their role in the support of the provision of kindergarten services to Queensland children now and in the future. *For further information on membership, please visit www.aisq.qld.edu.au or email Rebecca McKinnon at isqcgcb@aisq.qld.edu.au*

Queensland Catholic Education Commission is the peak body for Catholic education authorities in Queensland with state-wide responsibilities in respect of the 288 Catholic schools administered by 5 diocesan (regional) education authorities and 18 Religious Institutes.

All Catholic primary schools have preparatory classes. Throughout the State there are very few Catholic schools with kindergartens on school sites. Catholic education is eagerly embracing the introduction of an early childhood education program through kindergarten. The mission of the Catholic school is to provide an educational environment that promotes the human dignity of each student within a supportive Christian community. *For further information about CGB's phone 3336 9310, email: cgb@qcec.catholic.edu.au or visit www.qcec.catholic.edu.au*

Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services (QLECS) is a service organisation, providing professional governance and accountability, service management and expert knowledge in the specialised field childhood and children's services.

Queensland Lutheran Early Childhood Services (QLECS) is a branch of Lutheran Education Queensland (LEQ), each coming under the auspices of the Lutheran Church of Australia Queensland District (LCAQD). QLECS was formed in 2000 as a governance, administration and management arm of Lutheran Education Queensland (LEQ). QLECS is a Christ-centred organisation which administers, manages and supports 52 early childhood and school aged services across Queensland and northern NSW. Offering quality, educational programs within a Christian ethos, they welcome all families, regardless of ethnic origin, gender or religion. They seek to connect to community at all levels and advance authentic, relevant outreach that, in turn, builds meaningful, rich relationships. *Contact: Ms Susan Shaw, Ph: 3511 4079, admin@qlecs.org.au www.qlecs.org.au/*

The Gowrie (QLD) Inc. This is a new and exciting journey for The Gowrie (QLD) Inc. and they will support all that come on the journey with them.

The Gowrie expects that working together will be of major benefit for all, supporting the wellbeing of children across communities and positive long term outcomes. The Gowrie community is at the heart of their decision-making processes and striving for better outcomes for children and families they are particularly known for an innovative and flexible practice, integrated service provision, meaningful partnerships with parents and evidence based practice. An Early Childhood Education and Care Coordinator (ECECC) will visit the Kindergarten at least 6 times a year to establish a solid link with parents, educators and children. The ECECC will be an external support in all areas of Licensing, Accreditation and the curriculum framework. The Gowrie (QLD) Inc. and the Kindergarten will work together to make each policy and procedure indicative of the Kindergarten's culture and good practices. *For further information contact: Jane Bourne on 3252 2667 or email: jane.bourne@ladygowrie.com.au and visit <http://www.gowriebrisbane.com.au/aboutus/introduction.php>*





“Eventful practices: emerging educators contributing to the lives of children and families in local communities”

Marilyn Casley spent Tuesday 22 November, 2010 at the University of Canberra’s Work Integrated Learning (WIL) National Showcase 2010.

She contributed the presentation *“Eventful practices: emerging educators contributing to the lives of children and families in local communities”*.

This presentation highlighted the partnership between Early Childhood Australia Queensland Branch, Griffith University and Communities for Children Family Support.

The presentation focussed on the manner in which early childhood education and care (ECEC) practice is implemented largely across community services, education and health. She described how across these settings there needs to be possibilities for knowledge sharing and exchange to enhance successful integration of services and inclusive practices in work with children and their families.



Marilyn highlighted the “Talking Circle” project where the focus was on the social development and well-being of school age children in outside school hours care services and the “Mums and Bubs Expo” which involved groups of students collaborating to provide services to parents in this community based gathering. The session concluded with an exposition about the partnerships and significant contribution and impact of the outcomes of the projects on developing the professional skills of students and also on the lives of children and their families and the wider community.

