

**Early Childhood Australia  
South Australian Branch Operational Plan 2010**

**GOAL 1 - ECA will be a clear and credible advocate for the rights of young children**

**Desired outcome:**

**1.1 ECA will be an activist organisation that leads strongly through its advocacy work. ECA will be informed, articulate and forward thinking in raising and responding to issues and campaigning for the wellbeing of children, giving particular priority to our obligation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children**

<b>Enabling strategy</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Outcomes/Achievements</b>
<p>Use ECA website and emails to advocate with insight and authority</p> <p>Seek inclusion in key forums, and committees</p> <p>Use ECA publications to pursue ECA advocacy priorities</p> <p>Engage with Indigenous organisations and leverage ECA's capacity to support their work</p>	<p>Explore with National Board ECA efforts to ensure paid parental leave remains a priority and is implemented by Federal Government.</p> <p>Conference 2010 to include strong focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in EC Development and Education.</p> <p>SA has received funding for 3.5 (+.5 from State govt) Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Child &amp; Family centres. The branch will make contact with these centres when they are established and provide them with information about ECA</p> <p>Consider branch sponsorship for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff working in Early Childhood sites</p> <p>Create stronger links with the Learning Together Team, (DECS).<i>Joan Gilbert</i></p> <p>Approach Premier and Cabinet/DECS for sponsorship opportunities for ECA National conference. <i>Andrea/Kate</i></p> <p>Provide support for the implementation of the national quality standards across all early childhood sites (B-5years)</p> <p>Seek links between ECA, ARMSU, SNAICC.</p> <p>Make suggestions to the publications committee for topics of relevance in publications</p>	

**Desired outcome:  
1.2 ECA will be an organisation that recognises and supports the key role of parents in their children’s wellbeing and early learning**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
	<p>Utilise our quarterly newsletter to support Quality Standards initiatives- E.g. putting inserts about quality for parents (utilise information already in Every Child)</p> <p>Develop a structure for newsletters that makes it easy for centres to print off a parent’s page</p> <p>Promote the on-line fee calculator website as a tool for parents (Joan &amp; Lee to begin writing for newsletter (could also go in ‘Reflections’ &amp; “Adelaide Child”)</p> <p>Pam suggested recent AAIMHI Position paper on ‘Time Out for Children’ could also be abridged and included as a parent insert.(Pam Linke)</p>	

**1.3 Desired outcome:  
ECA will be an organisation that strongly promotes agreed ECA values, principles, positions and Code of Ethics in advocating for young children**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p><b>Promote and enable ongoing professional conversation and engagement with the ECA Code of Ethics</b></p>	<p>Session about Code of Ethics to be included in conference 2010 program</p> <p>Supporting ECA members to use the ECA values on a daily basis in their work with children, families and other professionals – consider stories in newsletter</p> <p>Provide opportunities for branch members to engage in discussion about the ECA values and how they relate to their professional lives (include these discussions on meeting agendas and consider for forums (PD committee)</p>	

**1.4 Desired outcome:  
An organisation that builds strategic and collaborative alliances that strengthen the early childhood sector and support the achievement of ECA's advocacy goals**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p><b>Seek inclusion in key forums, and committees</b></p>	<p>Explore possible conflicts of interest for govt employees who are ECA executive Committee members – particularly in regard to employees of Dept of Health joining the committee. Pam Linke <a href="#">Maintain strong links with Lady Gowrie Child Centre and nominate member to be an ECA rep on Gowrie Management Committee</a></p> <p>Ensure links with NIFTeY are maintained. Kaye Colmer to represent ECA on NIFTeY committee.</p> <p><a href="#">Maintain links with Australian Infant Mental Health Association (AIMHI) Pam Linke</a></p> <p>Seek opportunities to discuss, promote and explore introduction and implementation of Early Years Learning Framework and the National Curriculum and the possible outcomes, issues of these, including the support for teachers of 5 year olds in transition year between both curriculum documents. (Sue Emmett &amp; Marg Sankey)</p> <p><a href="#">Build a network of members with focus on 5-8 year olds in education, health and development areas.</a></p>	

**GOAL 2 ECA will advocate for and support programs and services that deliver high-quality outcomes for young children**

Desired outcome:

**2.1 An organisation that campaigns for the development of an educated, specialised and skilled workforce that delivers high-quality early learning programs and good outcomes for children**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p><b>Continue to provide opportunities for collaboration and professional conversation</b></p>	<p>Refresh Professional Development Sub-committee Ideas for possible forums, pd, information sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transitions focus (include reception teachers to strengthen links between educators working with different age groups. E.g. summative (transition reports) being more fully utilised and valued. Explore Links to 'Reconceptualising reception' project through members and the Early Years website – are there some positive stories/outcomes</li> <li>• Literacy focus (Birth-5 years)</li> </ul> <p>Endeavour to increase Early Childhood voice through representation on Early Years Literacy Stakeholders group.</p> <p>Work actively to promote &amp; create links with literacy work created in Health based groups who also have a focus on early literacy.</p> <p>Include a school age focus within newsletters on a range of curriculum, development and health issues.</p> <p>Target shared learning opportunities for birth to 8 practitioners</p> <p>Rethink and tighten the parameters for types of research. (Margaret Trembath)</p> <p>Improving our promotion and dissemination of the research we have funded via the scholarships.(Margaret Trembath &amp; de Lissa)</p>	

**Desired outcome:**  
**2.2 An organisation that speaks out for and supports high-quality, evidence- based reflective practice in early education and care, and the development of professional standards for programs and services for young children**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Work toward the development of national teaching standards for Early Childhood</p> <p>Support the provision of high quality professional support for those working in the early childhood field.</p>	<p>ECA members acting as mentors in ‘Engaging Young Minds’ project.</p> <p>Share information and experiences of implementing the Early Years Learning Framework and the introduction of the Quality Agenda (B-5 years)</p> <p>Ensure branch responses to documents and papers relating to Early Childhood Reform Agenda (COAG) and SA Legislative Review.</p> <p>Support the development of a quality, professional National ECA Conference 2010.</p> <p>Continue to advocate for the development of Teaching Standards being extended to Birth-5 (Christy Ward to raise at next Board meeting)</p>	

**Desired outcome:**  
**2.3 An organisation that supports strategies by employees, employers, unions, peak groups and governments to achieve appropriate recognition, status and career paths for people who work with young children**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Directly address government policy and requirements that impose obligations on services and schools</p>	<p>Responding to submissions and reviews from govt agencies</p> <p>Representation on groups that develop strategies or seek feedback</p> <p>Contact LHMU to conduct a comparison for centres between New National Award for child Care and old award to be published in ECA Newsletter</p> <p>Support the progress of a national agenda for workplace reform- wages and conditions, retention rates of staff, quality of students and graduates</p> <p>Draw attention to outcomes and changes resulting from implementation of Quality Agenda, Modern Awards and EYLF and National Curriculum.</p> <p>Utilise partnerships with national bodies to support strategies for improvement in workforce development in Early Childhood.</p>	

**GOAL 3 - ECA will be a strong, progressive and sustainable organisation that is future focussed**

**Desired outcome:**

**3.1 ECA will be an organisation that models high standards of governance, management and planning for the future**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Ensure that documentation is current and easily accessible.</p> <p><b>ECA-SA Constitution clearly establishes the different legal and stewardship responsibilities of the Executive</b></p> <p><b>ECA-SA has a documented approach to governance which reflects its role in strategic direction and priority setting and planning</b></p>	<p>Review and update constitution</p> <p><i>Review procedures, including selection of Board member, attendees for National Council.</i></p> <p>Publish procedures, policies, constitution on ECA SA webpage.</p> <p><i>Ensure webpage is regularly updated and that information is checked for accuracy.</i></p> <p>Direct members to ECA SA webpage in our newsletters.</p> <p><i>Employ admin person in 2010 to ensure prompt distribution of minutes, monitoring of email, post and executive/branch email lists.</i></p> <p>Support professional level of administration of Conference.</p> <p><i>Review make-up of Executive and branch committee - role &amp; responsibilities (in light of constitution)</i></p>	

**Desired outcome:**

**3.2 ECA will be an organisation that is financially independent and secure**

Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Ensure transparent and carefully management of branch funds to promote achievement of branch goals.</p> <p><b>The executive is fully appraised of the financial condition of the organisation</b></p>	<p>Monitor and maintain budget</p> <p><i>Budget reports to branch committee quarterly. (Joan Gilbert)</i></p> <p>Conference funds – consider using some funds to support release of site based staff to work on the 2010 conference</p> <p><i>Discuss the division of possible surplus funds from the 2010 Conference. (Kate Ryan)</i></p>	

Desired outcome 3.3 ECA will be an organisation that has a broad, growing and committed membership base		
Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Increase ECA's reach – number of people and sectors to whom we broker high quality information and resources</p> <p>Increase number of meaningful interactions and feeling of connectedness between ECA and its members</p>	<p>Increase membership through shared learning opportunities for professionals working across disciplines in the Birth to 8 years sectors.</p> <p>Maintaining membership by maintaining contact with members through regular, vibrant newsletters.</p> <p>Promoting ECA membership before and during conference- this could be done by Executive members during timeslots within the conference for interest groups</p>	
Desired outcome 3.4 ECA will be an organisation that is respected by other similar organisations		
Enabling strategy	Actions	Outcomes/Achievements
<p>Raise critical issues to government and politicians, key departments, other agencies, organisations and forums</p> <p>Maintain and develop strategic relationships with organisations, agencies, government and political parties</p>	<p>Shared learning opportunities for Birth to 8 for all health, care and education practitioners that encourage the development of reciprocal, respectful professional relationships.</p> <p>Link and strengthen with all levels of government, (i.e., Directors, ministers and advisors).</p>	