

A message from the president

ECA SA Branch has been very busy participating in the ECA National Campaign for Quality Improvements in Early Childhood Care and Education Services. Members wrote letters, phoned Ministerial Offices to leave messages and visited Ministers and their advisors. We urged our State Premier and the Prime Minister to be strong in seeking agreement in making decisions nationally that affect our children and the quality of services for them. The position of ECA in this national campaign is outlined on the National Website www.earlychildhood.org

Our Annual General Meeting was a great success with over 40 Early Childhood Professionals in attendance. We welcome some new members to the general committee: Jen Bais, Anne Lamont and Penny Martin. We will publish a full list of committee members in our first newsletter for 2010. Many thanks to Associate Professor Frank Tesoriero, who spoke with us about the Appreciative Inquiry Process and how he has used this process in Indian communities.

ECA SA Branch wishes all our members and newsletter readers a very Happy and Safe Christmas and we look forward to working with you all in 2010.

Kate Ryan
President

(Kate's AGM report is on P2 of this newsletter)

SEASONS GREETINGS
FROM THE
EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA
SA BRANCH EXECUTIVE



The Early Years Learning Framework: Getting started

Joy Goodfellow

The latest book in the Research in Practice series was written by a member of the consortium responsible for the development and trialling of the recently endorsed national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF).

It is designed as a guide to inform and support educators as they come to know about, understand, and work with, the EYLF



The author explores the central understandings upon which the Framework has been built, and looks at the why and how of the educator's engagement with the ideas and the understandings that can be found within.

Topics include:

- The essential understandings underpinning the framework
- Getting started with the EYLF
- Understanding the learning outcomes
- Sharing understandings about the Framework with other educators and families
- Assessment for planning

A valuable feature of the book are the practice examples which draw on the observations and reflections of early childhood educators in a variety of services.

While written as a practical guide for educators, the book may also be of interest to parents.

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/shop/details.cfm?prodid=753>

SA Branch President's Report 2008 – 2009

Membership

Membership has remained steady with over 100 individual and organisational memberships. Members include representatives from child care, preschool, integrated services (including Children's Centres) junior primary, rural and remote services, DECS staff, health professionals, students and universities. Quarterly branch newsletters are distributed by email to all SA members and key organisations in addition to National Office publications such as Web Watch.

Representation

Early Childhood Australia – SA Branch has had members involved in the following committees, groups and organisations throughout 2008-2009.

- Children's Services Consultative Committee
- DECS Early Years Literacy Program Stakeholder Forum
- Ministerial Advisory Committee on Children with Disabilities
- Margaret Trembath and de Lissa Scholarships Committees
- UniSA Programs Advisory Group
- National Excellence in Teaching Awards
- Professional Support Coordinator Sector Advisory Group
- Legislative Reform Stakeholders Group
- Working Group on Aboriginal Cultural Security
- Roundtable on Early Childhood Education (Universal Preschool)
- Australian Early Development Index Advisory Group
- ECA Sustainability E-Working Group

Leadership in Early Childhood

Early Childhood Australia is a peak national early childhood body. Within South Australia members of the SA Branch are active in leading professionals to reflect on their work with children and families in a manner that highlights the best interests of young children. This year much of this work has seen us involved in partnership with Gowrie Adelaide, DECS, Community Children's Centre SA to examine the future of Integrated Early Childhood Services in South Australia.

Integrated Services Forum

Two forums have been held, including the inaugural forum at which Dr. Margy Whalley from Pen Green, UK led lively discussions and provided examples of best practice. The forums have enabled a broad group of multidisciplinary professionals collaborate to discuss, reflect and challenge thinking around integrated services. This group consists of practitioners, policy and leadership personnel from Education, Child Care, Health, Non Government Organisations, Family and Community Services and Inclusion Support Agencies. Members of the group have developed a definition of integration and a vision for integration of early childhood services in South Australia and have consulted widely across SA in developing principles for service provision in integrated services. The group maintains communication with the Hon. Jay Weatherill, SA Minister for Early Childhood Development.

Scholarships and Awards

ECA SA provides and administrates several scholarships for professionals in Early Childhood. In 2008 - 2009 the following scholarships were awarded:

- **Professional Development Scholarship** was awarded to Rochelle Ballard from Port Lincoln, enabling her to attend 2008 ECA Conference in Canberra
- **Jean Denton Scholarship** was awarded to Dianne Jackson (University of Western Sydney) for her project *'Building the family learning environment: The role of supported play groups'*. ECA SA is represented on the de Lissa Scholarship Committee which administers the Jean Denton Scholarship.
- **Early Childhood Education Graduate Award** was presented to Rachel Eberhard, Bachelor of Early Childhood Education with Honours, School of Education, University of South Australia.
- **The Barbara Creaser Memorial Award** was presented to Dr Pam Winter at the 2008 National Early Childhood Conference in honour of her work across the early childhood profession and in acknowledgement of her advocacy for children in the early years.

Submissions

Over the past year ECA SA has responded to a range of inquiries and been involved in consultation with other professionals and government bodies to provide a voice for children in early childhood reform. ECA SA also

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contributes to consultation papers published by the national office.

Submissions have included:

- Early Years Learning Framework
- Regulation Impact Statement
- Legislative Reform Committee x 2 – regulations and registration (SA)
- Paid Maternity Leave (Collaborated on submission with NIFTEY and AIMHI)

Other ECA SA Activities for 2008-2009

- The Branch Constitution was reviewed
- Six members of the ECA SA executive group attended the Early Childhood Australia National Council held in Sydney in October 2009.
- We organised 3 articles for the Professional Support Coordinator South Australia (PSCSA) Newsletter
 - Beyond Post Sorry: A Letter From an Indigenous Mother*, by Tina Quitadamo
 - Capacity Building: Healthy Eating and Physical Activity*, by Penny Kazimierczak
 - Exploring the Relationship Between Qualifications and High Quality Care*, by Tracey Foulkes
- We collaborated with National Office on planning for *Garla Bauondi*, the ECA 2010 Conference. Themes for the conference are: *Inspirational Leaders, Inspiring Environments, and Inspiration through the Arts*. The conference program is in development, with keynote speakers identified and confirmed.

Kate Ryan
SA ECA Branch President

CEIEC Conference report

One of the November events I always prioritise in my diary is the annual Centre for Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood (CEIEC) conference at the University of Melbourne. The conference is small by comparison with many international conferences but the quality of the keynote speakers and the opportunity to interact with early childhood educators from the far corners of our own country and many international visitors is something that makes the event so special.

This year the conference began with Geraldine Atkinson's keynote regarding the role that culture and com-

munity should, and does command in Indigenous child care and family support as she recounted her experience with the Victorian Batdja Preschool and Lidje MACS centre. Her reflections offered much food for thought for early childhood educators who are working toward more equitable outcomes for Aboriginal children. Geraldine is President of the Victorian Aboriginal Education Association, representative for national Indigenous Educational Consultative Body to MCEETYA, Deputy Chair (SNAICC), Chairperson of Lidje MACS (Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services).

Hillevi Lenz Taguchi (Stockholm University) presented some of her thinking and research into young children's learning and provided valuable insights for us to consider as we embark on the implementation of the national learning framework (EYLF). She presented 2 different readings of young children's learning and through these different perspectives challenged us to think about the 'practical and ethical consequences of different ways of understanding knowledge and knowing and our being and becoming in the world?'

Patricia Ramsey (Mt Holyoke College, USA) engaged the audience with compelling evidence regarding the economic and environmental inequities that deeply affect the lives of young children. She contrasted the lives of children who live in poor countries (and communities) that are characterised by multiple health hazards with those children living in worlds where the consumerist 'snare' manipulates and undermines family, peer and community relationships. She argued that the current global economic crisis offers an opportunity to challenge destructive and unjust policies and practices.

Helen Penn (University of East London, UK) presented the paradox between the principles laid down in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), in which the integrity and agency of the young child and the importance of family and cultural context are emphasised and the casual disregard for the fact that 60% of the world's children are denied basic rights of safety, food and shelter. She challenged us to think about whether the early childhood community has a role in addressing these global inequalities and considered the possibility of action by groups and individuals concerned with young children.

In summary, the conference provided a combination of local and global perspectives that offered inspiration, stimulation and imperatives for action.

Susan Krieg
Senior Lecturer
School of Education
Flinders University

9th Early Childhood Intervention Australia
National Biennial Conference,

National Convention Centre, Canberra

20-22nd May, 2010.

*Every day in every way: Creating
learning opportunities for every child.*

Keynote international speakers:

- Professor Gerald Mahoney, Professor of Families & Communities at Case Western Reserve University in the USA.
- Dr Philippa Russell. Chair of the Standing Commission on Carers in the UK.

<http://www.ecia2010.com.au/>

**International Conference for Infant,
Toddler and Preschool Mental Health**

*International Experts in the Field of Infant and
Early Childhood Mental Health will speak on:*

- *Relationship disorders*
- *Premature birth*
- *Early behaviour leading to conduct disorder*
- *Autistic Spectrum Disorder*

Business School, University of Auckland
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

18 February 2010 - 20 February 2010

[http://www.conferenceonline.co.nz/index.cfm?
page=details_conference&pg=1&id=14156](http://www.conferenceonline.co.nz/index.cfm?page=details_conference&pg=1&id=14156)

***Growing up fast and furious:
Reviewing the impacts of violent and sexualised media on children***

Saturday 19 March 2010, 9am - 5pm
NSW Teachers Federation Conference Centre
37 Reservoir Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010

An Australian Conference on Children and the Media, with international researchers, **Prof Rowell Huesmann** (long term impacts of violent media) , **Prof Ed Donnerstein** (Internet violence and cyber-bullying) , **Distinguished Prof Craig Anderson** (violent video games), and **Prof Louise Newman** (Victoria, sexualisation of children), **Dr Wayne Warburton** (NSW, violent music videos), **Dr Cordelia Fine** (Victoria, advertising) and **Prof Elizabeth Handsley** (SA, regulation and classification).

In this important and timely conference leading researchers will review the evidence related to children's experiences with a range of violent and sexualised media, examine their marketing, and discuss appropriate regulatory responses, including how well our classification systems reflect current research.

Don't miss this unprecedented opportunity to see several of the world's leading researchers on children and the media speaking together in Australia.

<http://www.youngmedia.org.au>