



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

Newsletter

ECA Tasmania Branch Executive Members

President:

Lyn Woolley

Vice President:

Tania Ackley

Secretary:

Annette Barwick

Treasurer:

Ros Cornish

Public Officer:

Kathryn Laing

Executive Committee Members:

Marlies Coleman

Kathy Cripps

Stephanie Rubock

Mark Seager

Chris Symons

Introducing the committee members

Marlies Coleman

I began my career in Child Care Sector, 20 years ago. When my youngest child started school, I decided to study full time and completed my Diploma in Children's Services. Leaving TAFE I entered the sector as Assistant Director for Sheffield Occasional Care Centre part time as an Inclusion Support worker for Ulverstone. My career grew quickly into the Assistant Director at Elanora Child Care then to Director of 9 years with Keiko Child Care Services and when merging Keiko with Mersey Leven Children Services I left Children Services to take up a position as a Rehabilitation Officer with CRS Australia. Having a break of 3 years from the Child Care Sector I returned and gained my current role as Child & Family Services Manager with the Burnie City Council.

I hold an Advance Diploma in Children Services, Diploma in Front Line Management and Diploma in Employment Services. My passion is working with the community, addressing the needs of families and their children. I hope that I can make a small difference by working closely with services and organisations encouraging more networking and link up to enhance better outcomes for families and children. ECA has been a big support for me as a Director in Children's Services and I hope that I can return some of that support via being part of the committee.

Mark Seager

Mark Seager is the Director of Friends' Early Years, which is a section of The Friends' School. Friends' Early Years is an 80 place early learning centre which provides long day care for children aged 6 weeks to 3 years, Pre-Kinder for children aged 3 years to 5 years and Outside Kinder Hours Care for children attending kindergarten. Friends' Early Years also operates a 42 place Outside School Hours program.

A graduate of the University of Tasmania, Mark holds both a Bachelor of Arts Degree, specialising in business administration and also a Bachelor of Teaching Degree. A former ECE and Primary School teacher, Mark moved into the child care sector over ten years ago when he became Director of what was then known as The Sacred Heart Child Centre. He has been at Friends' Early Years since its opening year of 2004.

Mark is a passionate supporter for the rights of children and deeply committed to the ongoing professionalisation of the early learning sector.

ECA FORUM

Keynote Speakers to be confirmed

Saturday 12th November - 9.00am to 5.00pm

Forum Dinner and Entertainment - 6.30pm till late!

Tailrace Centre, 1 Waterfront Drive, Riverside, Launceston

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE REFORMS *LETS GET STARTED!*

As stated by ECA Chief Executive Officer, Pam Cahir, in the recent State of the Sector Report, Australia's early childhood education and care sector is at the beginning of a vital reform process. In the coming years, there are a number of important milestones to reach to fully embrace the reforms to early childhood education, reforms which are the cornerstones of a stronger economy and a better society.

The reforms promise so much for Australia's children – to improve outcomes for young children and ultimately contribute to benefiting our economy and society in general. As is often the case with change there has been some resistance – with cost identified as a major concern. As pointed out by the Pam Cahir, now is not the time to stall the process or reset the timelines. Our children are too important for us to delay or stop the reforms. Also we may never get another chance when all state and territory governments agree and commit to national curriculum frameworks, a unified system of quality standards and regulations which improves adult to child ratios and qualifications.

There is no doubt that the implementation of the reforms will bring about a range of challenges for the sector – workforce issues being a major one. The ability to recruit and retain educators, particularly early childhood teachers, has been a challenge for many years and will continue unless the 'elephant in the room' is addressed – wages and conditions. But wages and conditions alone is not enough, the profession must be valued and recognised by the broader community for the important role it plays in the lives of so many

children and their families. In this respect, we the sector have a part to play. We must present in a professional manner and be able to confidently articulate what we do and why we do it.

The reform agenda is dependent upon a sophisticated workforce – qualified, experienced, knowledgeable and skilled educators to provide a quality curriculum for young children that support their learning and development during the critical years prior to school. For many of us who have been in the sector for a significant period of time, such reforms have been pipe dreams – never thinking that they may become a reality! We must not let the challenges get in the way of these dreams nor the chance to improve outcomes for young children, and also the opportunity to increase the status and standing of the profession as we embrace the shift from child care to education and care.

In Tasmania we are fortunate as being a small state there is the opportunity for the sector to collaborate and share ways of working to implement the reform initiatives. The Branch state-wide and regional meetings are great networks for members to collaborate and share. Check the diary dates in this newsletter for details of these events.

Ros Cornish
Executive Member
ECA Tasmanian Branch

REFERENCE: Early Childhood Australia, 2011. State of the Sector Report. Canberra, ACT.

Next Meeting of South ECA Regional Sub-Committee

Tuesday 12th July
6:30pm to 8:30pm
229 Campbell Street, Hobart

Next Meeting of North ECA Regional Sub-Committee

First Tuesday of each month
9.30am-11.00am
Lady Gowrie Tasmania, Frederick Street, Launceston

Next Meeting of North-West ECA Regional Sub-Committee

29th June - 9.30am to 11.30am
3rd August - 9.30am to 11.30am
21st September - 9.30am to 11.30am

ECA TASMANIA BRANCH RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

We begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land and pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and recognise they are the first people of Australia.

Reconciliation is everyone's responsibility. For it to succeed requires the enthusiasm and goodwill of Australians everywhere. People like you.
(Reconciliation Australia)

ECA Tasmania Branch is committed to supporting Reconciliation to be achieved and common purpose in making it happen.

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is an organisations commitment to forming, building and maintaining relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations. It is important in the development of a RAP that it is genuine and respectful. This takes time and commitment of members to provide input and feedback into the development of the RAP. Over the coming months including newsletters, emails and face to face meetings, the Branch will explore its strengths and potential possibilities.

RAPs are living documents and therefore need to be continually reviewed and updated. The process of the development of the RAP needs to involve all members, so the Branch is committed to finding ways to ensure all voices are heard.

Reflection:

What does reconciliation mean to you?
What does it mean for your organisation?

Send through your thoughts to ecatas@earlychildhood.org.au or bring them along to the next state-wide meeting and/or regional meetings for sharing. Together we can make a difference and ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the same life opportunities as other children in this country.

Annette Barwick
ECA Tasmania Branch
RAP Sub Committee Member

NATIONAL BOARD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA

The next meeting of the National Board of Early Childhood Australia (ECA) will take place in Canberra on 21 July 2011. On the day prior to this meeting the first ECA Leadership Forum will be hosted by the National President of ECA, Margaret Young. This forum will bring together the Presidents of the State Branches, the National Board Directors and the CEO of ECA Pam Cahir. The forum is an exciting new initiative, and to quote Margaret Young,

“This will be a real step forward for us all in the ECA national partnership – an opportunity to together focus on our roles and responsibilities as ECA leaders and consider the opportunities, challenges, and joys of this.”

As an advocacy organisation it is very important that ECA maintains close links with State Branches so that a national perspective is maintained. While the main function of National Board Directors is to be responsible for the strategic governance of the organisation they are also responsible for supporting communication between the national organisation and their State Branches. So, if you have any issues that you would like raised at a national level bring them up at ECA meetings, either regional or state wide, contact an ECA Tasmania Committee Member or contact me directly ph 62471222 or k_laing@netspace.net.au

Later this year Tasmanian ECA members will have the opportunity to see ECA National in operation first hand. Tasmania is hosting this years National Council Meeting from 6-8 October in Hobart. The branch hosting the meeting is able to invite members as observers. This is a great way for newer ECA members who have not had the opportunity to be one of the five state representatives at a previous Council Meeting to take part in a meeting and hopefully feel more confident about expressing an interest in representing the state at future meetings.

Some of the issues that were on the agenda of the last council meeting included:

Promoting the reconciliation agenda with the organisation

Members who have been able to attend State meeting will be aware that Tasmania Branch has begun work on ways we can progress this item. Nationally our actions include a commitment to including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in our publications, the inclusion of the strong reconciliation statement at all ECA meetings, workshops, forums, and ongoing advocacy to Governments at all levels.

Children in immigration detention

ECA is again concerned about the treatment of refugee children. The latest issue of ‘Voice’ our national newsletter contains the ECA Position Statement on Children of Asylum Seekers. If you have not received a copy it can be accessed on the national web site.

The Modern Award

The National Board has asked for feedback on the impact of the Modern Award, and feedback from the last state wide meeting will be presented at the next national meeting. If you did not have an opportunity to take part in meeting and have issues you would like raised please contact me.

Developing Standards for Highly Accomplished Teachers of Children birth to three

The National Board has agreed in principal to undertake to develop Standards for Highly Accomplished Teacher of Children from birth to three years of age. The project is still in the very early stages of development and the final details of the proposal and budget is being developed.

National Children’s Services Forum (NCSF)

Branches will be asked to send in any agenda items that they would like raised with the Federal Government representatives prior to each NCSF meeting so please make sure that you raise any issues you have.

Kathryn Laing
National Board Director



**From damaged to brand new in no time
That's Guild Home and Car Insurance**



Guild Insurance provides trusted insurance services to over 40 professional associations and their members. In addition to Business Insurance, Guild now offers home & contents and car insurance.

Your car and home are valuable assets requiring the right protection and Guild Insurance has been protecting homes and cars for nearly 50 years. Guild understands that people want the reassurance of knowing their insurance will deliver the benefits they expect. And that's how the policies have been designed. With you in mind.

Guild Comprehensive Car Insurance comes with a number of top-line cover features, including:

- New car replacement guarantee for cars under 2 years old
- Free car hire for up to 14 days if your car is stolen
- Emergency towing and accommodation costs, and
- Pay-by-the-month billing at no extra cost.

Guild Insurance also offers two home & contents insurance products – Home Elite and Home Essential. Both products come with the added security of a '20% safety net'. The 20% safety net hedges against ever-rising building costs by giving you additional protection in the event that the actual cost of rebuilding or repairing your home exceeds the sum insured.

Unexpected events can often occur at inconvenient times and with a 24/7 emergency claims line, Guild Insurance is able to give you support when you need it. Visit www.guildinsurance.com.au/switchnow today for a quote on insurance your home and car.

Plus if you take out a new policy before 1 December you will automatically go in the draw to win a new Holden Barina Spark! Visit www.guildinsurance.com.au/switchnow for details.*

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Four reasons why super still stacks up

Your super balance may change over time but the reasons why super is a great investment remain the same. Here's why it's a good idea to contribute to super:

1. Super is a long term investment

Financial markets have always had their ups and downs. But history shows us that over time the value of investments can be recovered and exceeded.

So, a sound approach is to think like a long-term investor. After all, even if you retired tomorrow, you might stay invested for another 30 years.

Super offers investors compound interest – that is interest* earned on the interest your contributions attract– which can have a big impact on your super balance over time.

HESTA has more than 20 years experience with a solid history of strong long-term returns.

2. You can contribute and have it matched

If your total income is under \$61,920 and you make an after after-tax contribution the government may match your contribution – up to \$1,000.

For eligibility and contribution details, download *Your guide to topping up* at www.hesta.com.au/contribute

3. It can be a tax effective strategy

Depending on your income, you may be paying up to 45 cents per dollar of your earnings in tax. On the other hand, the super contributions your employer makes for you are taxed at only 15 cents per dollar. So money (up to the contribution caps) that you salary sacrifice into your super is taxed as an employer contribution – at this low rate.

Download *Your guide to topping up* from www.hesta.com.au/contribute to read how it works.

4. You choose the types of investments you want

At HESTA we have a team who work hard to bring you a range of investment options to suit your investor risk profile and long term goals.

You simply decide what's best for your individual situation – and select accordingly.

Remember, our Superannuation Advisers can help you or download a copy of *Your investment choice guide* at www.hesta.com.au/yourchoice

For more information on HESTA, your health and community services super fund, visit www.hesta.com.au or free call 1800 813 327.

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