Many years ago *Every Child* was introduced as Early Childhood Australia’s flagship national magazine with Alison Elliott at the helm as Editor. Now Judy Radich and I have been appointed as Co-Editors. Personally, over the many years when I felt too busy with work and family to be more involved with ECA, it was the regular arrival of *Every Child* which kept me connected, up to date and inspired. Both Judy and I would like to say thank you, Alison, for your long-term commitment to the role as Editor of *Every Child*!

This edition of *Every Child* comes at a significant time for Australian young children and their families. The introduction of the COAG National Early Childhood Development Strategy in 2009 brought much anticipation to the early childhood sector as governments across Australia formally acknowledged the importance of the early years. The initial group of children to benefit from the National Quality Framework have now transitioned to school. We have seen services become ever more familiar with the Framework and its intention to lift the quality of service that we provide, improve the qualifications of the early childhood workforce, and work towards better developmental and educational outcomes for every child.

However, there is still a long way to go in supporting the rights of young children. Although Australia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, still approximately half of our young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have been identified as developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains according to the Australian Early Development Census. Increasingly, family violence, with its associated impact on the safety, development and wellbeing of young children, has also been considered a national issue of concern.

The Commonwealth Government’s Jobs for Families package has been welcomed by ECA for its potential to support working families and increase the number of children accessing early childhood education and care services. However, ECA has also expressed concern about potential impact on the participation of our most vulnerable children. ECA strongly recommends that the current level of affordability and access for all families is maintained, while at the same time increasing overall participation in early childhood education and care services.

If we want all young children to grow and learn, how are we role modelling this learning for them?

This edition of *Every Child* has a focus on professional learning. Included are articles from Manjula Waniganayake and Fay Hadley about ways of benefitting from professional learning and development, Dr Anne Kennedy about making a commitment to ongoing learning through reflective practice and Leesa Van Duin on supporting students in our workplaces.

Once again, we hear from educators and services across Australia, including Rebecca Bope in the Northern Territory, Denise Ansingh in Western Australia and Fran Kent in Victoria. Importantly for all of us, Pam Linke encourages us to really hear the voices of children.

ECA also offers many opportunities for our broader professional learning—through publications including *Every Child* and the Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, online opportunities such as WebWatch and ECA Learning Hub, and formal meetings, events and conferences including the Reconciliation Forum in May and National Conference in October this year.

Please enjoy the reflection opportunities provided by this edition of *Every Child*.

Jackie Brien
Co-Editor

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