Dear members,

As the countdown begins, we share our top ten reasons to attend the ECA National Conference!

If you haven’t yet booked, now is the perfect time to secure your spot at Australia’s largest early childhood event. BOOK HERE NOW!

For those of you that have booked your spot, we look forward to welcoming you in 62 days!
Top 10 reasons TO ATTEND THE ECA NATIONAL CONFERENCE!

1. **A unique opportunity**
   ECA prides ourselves on bringing together the world’s best thinkers and experts in early childhood – there is no other conference in Australia that provides the depth of information and rare opportunity to spend quality time with experts like the ECA National Conference. It is an opportunity to learn from, share and be inspired to work together to increase the impact of the work you do. No matter how experienced (or inexperienced) you are, everyone can learn. Working in your own service or community in isolation, without exposure to different points of view means that you can miss new ideas that impact your practice. The educational aspect of the ECA National Conference can expose you to new ways and help you discover how to be the best you can be.

2. **Meet like-minded people**
   While lots of information can be found online, face-to-face connections are more important than ever. Past attendees often state that the ‘hallway conversations’ they have at the ECA National Conference are the most valuable parts of attending. While this is not an official part of the program, they are a key learning objective – when two or more people begin to discuss a topic on a deeper and personal level, the understanding and learning is irreplaceable. We have an exciting social program that accompanies the conference to ensure that you can have fun while meeting others.

3. **Get inspired**
   Check out the amazing line-up of speakers and presenters announced It is a who’s who of leading early childhood experts from across Australia and around the world who will be sharing their best practice, insights and experiences at the ECA National Conference.

4. **Practical advice and strategies**
   There are over 200 speakers at the ECA National Conference presenting in plenary sessions, panels and workshops. You will learn about what is ahead on the horizon and what the latest research is telling us, but you will also learn things you can do now – and best practices (often learned the hard way) so you can benefit from the learnings of others and immediately implement ideas when you return from the conference.

5. **Value for money**
   The ECA National Conference is the largest early childhood conference in Australia - it is a world-class event and you will not find this much content and this many inspiring speakers anywhere else. You will access advice and ideas that is worth its weight in gold from an impressive array of recognised professionals.

6. **Organised by ECA**
   Our top-notch Events team are based within the Early Childhood Australia National Office. They are experienced and professional event managers that have delivered some of the largest conferences and events in Australia, so you can be assured that the event will be run professionally and that as an attendee you will be taken care of and appreciated.

7. **Invest in yourself**
   Taking time and stepping away from your service or office is investing in yourself. It is admitting that you’re worth it, that you still have things to learn and can be better. It is an investment in yourself, your career and your community. When you get your conference ticket and walk up to the registration desk at the event, you’re saying that you’re investing in your own growth.

8. **Location**
   Due to the sell-out crowd in 2016, we have booked Australia’s largest ballroom and newest conference venue, the International Conference Centre (ICC) Sydney. Recently opened, this venue will ensure that our conference delegates have space to connect and network, and enough room for everyone to participate in the plenary sessions. Set around the world’s largest natural harbour, Sydney is the most well-known of Australia’s cities, and with good reason. From the iconic Sydney Opera House and sparkling blue Sydney Harbour to fabulous unspoilt beaches, delicious food and a vibrant arts and culture scene, this thriving metropolis is one of a kind. You’ll be amazed with the many wonderful things to do and see while you’re here.

9. **Discover new products and suppliers**
   Our exhibition hall is a favourite of many past attendees. Our sponsors and exhibitors can be some of the best people for you to get to know if you want to learn about new products and services. Invest time with them and learn innovative ways that they can help your practice and service.

10. **Learn**
    Research is continuously changing the way we understand young children and how we approach their care and education. Not being up-to-date with the latest news and teaching approaches not an option! Continuing your own education can advance your professional development and can benefit your careers and better serve the children in your care. For example, by attend the ECA National Conference, you will maintain quality in your practice as an early childhood educator and then bring back these exciting new ideas and put them into immediate use with the children. Look over the conference program in advance online, so you can decide what topics and presenters before you even get there.
As part of our commitment to the sector, ECA NSW offered six state wide scholarships to the early childhood sector to attend our upcoming ECA Conference, ‘Being the Difference for children and Families’.

The lucky scholarship winners were awarded the full cost of attending the ECA Conference along with a contribution to the travel and accommodation costs. A year’s membership to ECA was also included.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners:

Kate Howard
Amy Hurd Early Learning Centre
Wagga Wagga

Jessica Gibbs
Only About Children
Cremorne, Lane Cove

Natalie Rich
St Peter’s Preschool Ltd
Armidale

Cherie Longden
Styles St Children’s Community
Long Day Care Centre, Leichhardt

Jordan Martins
Explore and Develop
Lilyfield

Tegan Baker
Tumut Preschool
Tumut
Our NSW ECA Annual General Meeting was held on 17th May 2018 in Sydney. The National Children’s Commissioner, Megan Mitchell was our guest speaker, presenting on Australia’s current preparation for its appearance before the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. The UN Committee monitors Australia’s progress in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention of the Rights of the Child. Every five years the Australian Government reports to the UN Committee on its progress on Children’s Rights.

Ms Mitchell also discussed the Child Safe Organisations project and discussed the development of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. If you would like to find out more information about the work of the Commission, please see the Commissions website. [LINK HERE](#)

The Annual General Meeting Elections were held for the Executive positions for ECA NSW. The following members were elected to the Executive for the next twelve months.

- **Carol Burgess** President
- **Natalie Grenfell** Vice President
- **Rose Todd** Treasurer
- **Ian Alchin** Executive
- **Gabby Holden** Executive
- **Jan Langtry** Executive
- **Chris Legg** Executive
- **Anita Jovanovski** Executive
- **Marina Papic** Executive

A copy of the 2017 Annual General Report is available to download for all our members on our website. [LINK HERE](#)

Thank you to Dr Sandra Cheeseman for acting as Public Officer for our elections.

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**ECA NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**CAN YOU HELP?**

If you are a student undertaking early childhood studies and are interested in volunteering at the conference, please contact Julia Ham through the ECA NSW branch: [office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:office@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au) for more information on becoming a student volunteer.

Thank you to University of Sydney, Macquarie University, Charles Sturt University, University of Wollongong and University of Western Sydney for assisting the ECA NSW branch in advertising for student volunteers.

‘Be the Difference for Children and Families’
Central Coast Group ECA PANEL DISCUSSION

It is more important than ever to advocate for a space that includes the voice of young children and their families. Come along to discover and share ways that this can be achieved in your service.

100 Faces of ADVOCACY

Negotiating and advocating in the early years

~ SALLY HARRISON
ADVOCACY: In the School Setting
Sally is the Early Learning Project Officer Catholic Schools Office

~ VICKI GEACH
ADVOCACY: In Everyday Practice
Vicki is the Director of Glendale Early Education Centre Newcastle

~ KATE HODGEKISS
ADVOCACY: In Leadership
Kate is the Director of Engaging Curriculum Solutions

~ ROSANNE PUGH
ADVOCACY: Through Research
Rosanna is the Director of KU Kurri Kurri

~ SELMA WASTELL
ADVOCACY: Through Professional Engagement
Selma works at TAFE in Children’s Services Kurri Kurri & Glendale

Date: Wednesday August 1st 5.30pm-7pm
Venue: Our Lady Star of the Sea ELC Terrigal 165 Serpentine Rd, Erina Heights
Register: your intention to attend by email to cc@nsw.earlychildhood.org.au
* Members Free upon proof of membership * Non-Members $5 *

Hunter Early Childhood Australia invites you to

A Night of Conversations...

Themes for Exceeding the NQS

Join Hunter ECA for a night of conversations as we probe the Themes for Exceeding in the NQS. With the new round of Assessment and Rating currently underway, there are many questions of how the underlying themes will look in an Exceeding service.

We will explore the themes:
• Practice is embedded in service operations
• Practice is informed by critical reflection
• Practice is shaped by meaningful engagement with families and/or the community

We will contemplate, as a group, how these themes might look in an Exceeding service.

Be prepared to share your thoughts and ideas, as we encourage you to challenge yourself and your service!

When: Tuesday 14 August
Time: 5.30pm for 6pm start
Where: Glendale TAFE, Room NG09
RSVP: www.huntereca.eventbrite.com.au
Light supper will be provided.