Early Childhood Australia Victoria Branch
Doctoral Thesis Award

Background and Purpose

The Victorian Branch of Early Childhood Australia has established the Victorian Branch Early Childhood Australia Doctoral Thesis Award in 2015. The aim of the award is to recognise the level of excellence and diligence required to undertake and complete a Doctoral thesis and to encourage the generation of quality early childhood research in Victoria.

The Award Comprises

- A citation delivered with the presentation of the award at the ECA Victorian Branch AGM and/or
- Travel support if required to attend the Victorian Branch AGM and/or research forum

Eligibility Criteria

- For the 2019 award, the thesis must be a PhD or EdD (Professional Doctorate) awarded in 2018 or 2019 by a university in Victoria, Australia.
- The award recipient must be a current member of Early Childhood Australia.

Judging Criteria

Applicants are required to submit a 3,000 word summary of their thesis. The following criteria will be used to assess applications for this award:

1. How does the thesis advance knowledge of early childhood education (defined as birth to eight years of age) by making a contribution to theoretical, empirical, and/or methodological research and understanding?
2. How does the thesis contribute or potentially contribute to improvements in early childhood policy or practice? Explain the nature of the contribution.
3. How does the thesis demonstrate or evidence excellence in early childhood program delivery?
4. How will this award potentially increase the impact of the thesis on the delivery of early childhood education and care?

Process for reviewing applications

Applications are confidential and will remain confidential throughout the reviewing process. Applicants should complete the application form and submit their applications via email to ecavic@earlychildhood.org.au
The Selection Committee assesses applications in three steps:

- **Step 1** - establishing that applications meet the criteria for eligibility
- **Step 2** - assessing each eligible application against the selection criteria
- **Step 3** - selecting one nominee to receive the award

The Selection Committee may request a copy of the full thesis and any supporting documentation and/or additional information to assist in decision making. If the Selection Committee decides there are no nominations for the Award that sufficiently fit the selection criteria, no Award will be presented. The ECA Victorian Branch executive committee will review the final decision. The decision is final and no correspondence or discussion will be entered into.

**Award Benefits/Prizes**

1. The Award recipient will be contacted prior to the ECA Victorian Branch AGM and/or research forum and invited to prepare a presentation about the thesis.
2. The Award will be announced in the Victorian Branch Newsletter and the award recipient invited to write a short article for the newsletter about the thesis.
3. The Award recipient will receive travel costs to attend the AGM or Research Forum and receive the award (if necessary).
4. The Award recipient will receive 12 months complimentary Early Childhood Australia membership and subscriptions to AJEC, Every Child, Research in Practice and Everyday Learning (any or all of these can be transferred to another individual or service if desired).

**Check List**

Please ensure your application contains the following:

- [ ] Completed application form
- [ ] A 3,000 word summary of the thesis
- [ ] Certified copies of qualifications

**Applications must be received by the last Friday in August.**

Please send your completed application to: ecavic@earlychildhood.org.au

OR

Early Childhood Australia
Victoria Branch Awards Officer
42 Dight Street
Collingwood VIC 3066