With the end of year rapidly approaching, I pen my final editorial as co-editor of Early Childhood Australia’s (ECA) flagship publication—Every Child.

My last edit immersed in inspiration

I have enjoyed sharing this role with Jackie Brien, not only in reviewing the increased number of articles, but also in reflecting and discussing the possibilities and potential difficulties of publishing. It has been a privilege to work with the ECA Publications Advisory Committee and the publishing team in the national office to publish quality publications that provoke discussion in our sector. This issue of Every Child profiles a member of the committee, Dr. Jane Page OAM, who reflects on how her childhood led to her distinguished early childhood career.

After being challenged and refreshed from another great ECA National Conference—this time in Hobart—I was almost reluctant to mention the word ‘quality’ after the opening keynote address by Emeritus Professor Peter Moss. His speech certainly ruffled a few feathers, but it reminded me that often we use words frequently without unpacking the different views on what they look and feel like to different people. Quality is a word that is clearly based on values and beliefs, but in education and care settings is based within solid regulation, which is underpinned by current research.

The other keynote addresses and concurrent sessions at the conference were thought-provoking and inspiring. Inside this issue of Every Child is international presenter, Gunilla Dalhberg’s, compelling exploration into pedagogical documentation.

I chaired several sessions at the conference, some of which I probably would not have ordinarily selected. But each gave me new and interesting information that made me think. One session saw me introduced to my Tasmanian granddaughter’s prep teacher, who was part of a pilot program in Catholic schools.

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The three ECA award winners, who were announced at the conference, are profiled on pages six and seven. They share their stories about paving new ground in the early childhood sector. They have done fantastic work and I congratulate their success.

Another highlight was the relaunch of a well-loved book from almost 40 years ago, titled Ourselves in their shoes by Anne Stonehouse AM. The relaunch saw an online version of the book come to life. Anne has kindly written an article for this issue about the online version and why this is an important resource for early childhood professionals.

Articles about wellbeing and kindness are featured, with Tamara Cumming and Sandie Wong discussing how the term ‘wellbeing’ can take on so many meanings. A young educator, Elle Veitch, writes about the importance of kindness and how it is central to her work with children.

There are many other articles I trust will support you to reflect on your own practices, and motivate you to consider how to incorporate them into your day with young children. I trust you will enjoy this issue, including the Perspectives On section discussing whether educators should wear uniforms. I wonder where you sit on the topic. I am certainly not a uniform person, but several of my educators choose to wear a collared t-shirt with the centre logo.

Although I will be stepping away from co-editing Every Child, I will continue to be an active reader of ECA’s publications. I wish ECA, its publication team and the Publications Advisory Committee success as they go forward into the challenging times of competition and e-publications.

Thank you ECA for the opportunity.

See you next year at the Brisbane ECA National Conference—30 September–3 October 2020.

Judy Radich
Every Child
Co-Editor