



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

**OUR
VISION:
EVERY
YOUNG
CHILD IS
THRIVING
AND
LEARNING**

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 27 January, 2016

Australia Day Honours recognition for service to children

Early Childhood Australia congratulates recipients of Australia Day Honours who have been recognised for their service and dedication to early childhood education and care.

Former Vice President of Early Childhood Australia (1983-87) [Allan Fazldeen](#) was awarded a Medal of the order of Australia (OAM) for service to early childhood care and other community organisations. Mr Fazldeen served on the ECA board from 1972 until 1995 and is now a life member. He is credited with helping to get the 'kindergarten movement' off the ground in Australia.

Children's authors [Jackie French](#) and [Ann James](#) have been awarded Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for their services as authors and advocates of children's literacy. Each have books available through the ECA online shop.

Jackie French was the 2015 Australian Senior of the Year and 2014-15 Australian National Children's Laureate. She is a passionate advocate for children's literacy, especially children with learning difficulties, as well as wildlife conservation. She has written more than 140 books, many of them featuring Australian wildlife. Her popular picture books include *Diary of A Wombat* and *Pete the Sheep*.

Ann James runs the [Books Illustrated](#) gallery, co-founded in 1988 with Ann Haddon. She is the illustrator of 60 children's books, some of which she also wrote.

Also awarded an AM for her service to community welfare particularly child protection, higher education and research is [Professor Karen Healy](#), Research Director for the University of Queensland School of Social Work and Human Services. Professor Healy is also the National President, Australian Association of Social Workers and serves as a Director on the board of The Benevolent Society.

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