



Key International Speakers

DR STUART SHANKER

Friday 21 September	Keynote	8.40 – 9.30am
	Workshop	11.10 – 11.55am

Dr Stuart Shanker, D. Phil. (Oxon), is a distinguished research professor emeritus of psychology and philosophy from York University, Toronto. He is the creator of [The MEHRIT Centre](#) and the [Self Regulation Institute](#). Dr Shanker's expertise has been sought internationally as an advisor on early child development and self-regulation to school boards and government organisations. His five-step Self-Reg model—The Shanker Method®—is a powerful process for understanding and managing stress in children, youth and adults.

An internationally acclaimed speaker, educator and author, Stuart has written many influential books and articles including the top-selling educational book, *Calm, alert and learning: Classroom strategies for self-regulation* (Pearson, 2012). His newest book, *Self-Reg: How to help your child (and you) break the stress cycle and successfully engage with life* (Penguin, 2016) has garnered glowing reviews, and is being translated and published around the world.

Dr Shanker has 3 key messages for anyone working with children:

- There is no such thing as a bad kid.
- There is no such thing as a kid who cannot learn to self-regulate in a manner that promotes growth in all its multi-faceted aspects.
- There is no such thing as a trajectory that cannot be changed; all worrying trajectories can be changed, if only we have the right tools.

Read a detailed interview with Dr Shanker published on ECA's The Spoke, [No such thing as a bad kid](#)

Blogs on Self-Reg by Dr Shanker can be found here: <https://self-reg.ca/author/stuart-shanker/>

Dr Shanker is available for interview on Thursday 20 September in the afternoon and on phone between 1-2pm on Friday 21 September. [also by phone between 22-26 September]

PROFESSOR PAUL RAMCHANDANI

Saturday 22 September	Keynote	8.35 – 9.25 am
	Workshop	11.00 – 11.45am

Paul Ramchandani - the LEGO® Professor of Play in Education, Development and Learning (PEDAL) at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge.

PROFESSOR PAUL RAMCHANDANI (cont)

He leads a research team investigating the role of play in children's early development. He also works as a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist in the UK National Health Service.

Professor Ramchandani has a degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He then completed training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and obtained a DPhil from Oxford University in 2005. Prior to taking up his appointment in Cambridge in January 2018, Paul led the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Group at Imperial College London.

Paul's research is focussed on early child development and he has a particular interest in the prevention of emotional and behavioural problems in the early years of life. Read a [recent blog](#) on the importance of fathers' involvement in play.

At PEDAL Paul works with a multi-disciplinary team including expertise in psychology, neuroscience, education and psychiatry. Details of the current work of the team, and recent publications, can be found on the [PEDAL](#) and [pPOD](#) websites.

Professor Ramchandani is available for interview in Sydney on Thursday 20 or Friday 21 September.

DR CINDY BLACKSTOCK

Thursday 20 September	Keynote	9.40-10.30am
	Workshop	11.15am – 12.00pm

Dr Cindy Blackstock is Executive Director, [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#). She is also a member of the Gitksan First Nation, and has 25 years of social work experience in child protection and Indigenous children's rights.

Cindy's promotion of culturally based and evidence-informed solutions has been recognised by the Nobel Women's Initiative, [Indspire](#), Front Line Defenders and many others.

An author of over 50 publications and a widely sought-after public speaker, Cindy has collaborated with other Indigenous leaders to assist the United Nations Committee on the rights of the child in the development and adoption of a [General Comment on the rights of Indigenous children](#).

Read about Dr Blackstock's views and experience of advocacy for First Nations children [here](#)

Dr Blackstock is available for interview on Wednesday 19 September, Thursday 20 (afternoon only) and Friday 21 September.

View the full Conference program here <http://www.ecaconference.com.au/>

For interviews with speakers contact: ECA Media Manager, Carolin Wenzel 0475 554 999