



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 19 September 2018

Ministers address Australia's largest Early Childhood conference

Federal Education Minister Dan Tehan MP and NSW Early Childhood and Indigenous Affairs Minister Sarah Mitchell will join a line-up of international and Australian experts in early childhood education and development. They will address Australia's largest gathering of early childhood professionals at the annual Early Childhood Australia National Conference from 19–22 September in Sydney.

This year the conference celebrates 80 years of continuous service by Early Childhood Australia (ECA) to the Australian community with the theme: *Be the difference for children and families*.

Today access to quality early learning is recognised as being crucial to children's development and key to lifelong outcomes. More than 2000 leaders and educators in the early childhood sector attend over 100 presentations, workshops, panels and concurrent sessions, and hear keynote addresses by:

- Federal Minister for Education, Dan Tehan MP—9.30 am Friday 21 September.
- NSW Minister for Early Childhood Education, Sarah Mitchell—8.15 am Friday 21 September.
- Stan Grant, Indigenous Affairs Editor for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).
- Dr Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director, [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#); Nobel Women's Initiative, [Indspire](#), Front Line Defender.
- Dr Stuart Shanker, D. Phil. (Oxon), professor emeritus of psychology and philosophy from York University, Toronto; author of *Self-Reg: How to help your child (and you) break the stress cycle and successfully engage with life* (Penguin, 2016); creator of [The MEHRIT Centre](#) and the [Self Regulation Institute](#).
- Professor Paul Ramchandani, the LEGO® Professor of Play in Education, Development and Learning (PEDAL) at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. Find out more on the [PEDAL](#) and [pPOD](#) websites. Read a [recent blog](#) on fathers' involvement in play.
- Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Executive Director of The Ethics Centre will join a panel of early childhood leaders to discuss Ethics and Leadership in Early Childhood.

Full program and speaker bios available here: <http://www.ecaconference.com.au/>

For interviews contact: Carolin Wenzel 0475 554 999

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) has been a voice for young children since 1938. We are the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood field. ECA advocates to ensure quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children aged birth to eight years.