



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 25 September 2019

A focus on early learning in Tasmania

More than 1300 early childhood education thinkers, researchers and practitioners will gather in Hobart over the next four days to hear and learn from prominent international and Australian early childhood leaders at the 2019 Early Childhood Australia (ECA) National Conference.

Today the conference kicks off with the opening of the inaugural *Making Marks* exhibition that celebrates young children's art from Tasmania. The exhibition honours, nurtures and supports the voices of children through art. The B4 Early Years Coalition—a Tasmania Government initiative—created the exhibition with several partners, including ECA Tasmania, and in collaboration with Tasmanian children, artists, educators and families.

Over the next four days the ECA National Conference will bring together experts to share ideas, knowledge and experiences aimed at improving early childhood education and care in Australia.

Conference delegates are being treated to a stellar cast of keynote speakers and early childhood thought-leaders including:



Professor Emerita Gunilla Dahlberg—the architect of Sweden's early childhood policy and whose work on children's participation in the world has informed early childhood thinking for more than 45 years. Her keynote will explore documentation as a tool for change (from the lens of an ethical paradigm).



Emeritus Professor Peter Moss—an acclaimed international thought-leader who continues to advocate to move beyond quality in early childhood education. Read our Q&A with Professor Moss about 'quality' [here](#).



Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney, whose work on 'culturally responsive education' and questioning of how western methodologies have created knowledge *about* rather than *by* Indigenous peoples is remaking our understanding of the past and the possibilities for the future.



Associate Professor Sheila Degotardi—a leading Australian researcher who explores how the youngest children learn, particularly in the power of talk in shaping early experiences.



Dr Kate Highfield—the early childhood expert on technology in early childhood, who teaches how digital play, technology integration and healthy media use can be used as a tool to enhance learning.



Megan Mitchell—Australia's first National Children's Commissioner who is challenging us all to take action during the 30th anniversary year of the United Nations Convention on the *Rights of the Child*.

Full program and speaker bios are available here: www.eacaconference.com.au/

For interviews contact: Paige Pollard 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 sector. 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.