



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

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

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shaping the future for the digital child

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) welcomes the announcement of a new research centre that will investigate the impact of digital technology on young children.

ECA is thrilled to be a working partner in this vital initiative by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), which will conduct the world's first longitudinal study on the digital lives of Australian children from birth to the age of eight years. Professor Susan Danby will lead the study.

'This is an essential next step. There is a worldwide gap in research on the reality of technology use in young children's everyday life', said ECA CEO, Samantha Page.

'ECA has been working in the area of young children and digital technology over a number of years', said Ms Page. 'The Centre's focus will build on our previous work and brings together Professor Danby, Professor Leon Straker and Professor Susan Edwards, who all shaped ECA's [Statement on young children and digital technologies](#).'

'This is a chance to turn digital technology into a tool for children to create and communicate with now, and in their technology-rich future,' said Ms Page.

This federally funded Australian Research Council grant recognises that 'the technology genie is out of the bottle', said Dr Kate Highfield, partner investigator in the project and ECA's General Manager of Professional Learning and Research Translation.

'We recognise careful use of technology can extend children's capacity and we promote thoughtful use that enhances children's lives.'

ECA is the national peak body representing the interests of young children from birth to eight years, their families and the professionals that work in the early childhood education and care sector. Our vision is that every young child is thriving and learning.

www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

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Early Childhood Australia is the peak advocacy body for children from birth to eight years, their families and early childhood professionals.