



**Early Childhood
Australia**
A voice for young children

Annual Report 2020



President's Message

Carol Burgess
ECA NSW President

At ECA NSW we advocate for and promote the specific needs and interests of our NSW members through state based initiatives, branch regional groups and communication with national office.

During the past year ECA NSW has been involved with many committees, early childhood organisations and groups who work to achieve quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children.

Our regional groups are still doing well and growing in strength. We have established a new group – the Central West Group – that stretches from Lithgow west to Broken Hill, south to Cowra and north to Mudgee. This has meant that members in remote areas are able to connect (through Zoom) with one another. Our Regional Groups offer events in their regions that meet the specific needs of that region. The dispersion of events throughout our Regional Groups allows us to meet and engage with members on a broader scale than would otherwise be practicable.

Conversations evenings have been held around NSW to engage our members with current topics and local issues. Dr Kate Highfield spoke about Teaching with Technology, Jason Renshaw & Claire Marriott spoke about Leading with Technology and recently Social Worker Bronwen Elliott spoke on working with children who have experienced trauma. These events provide networking and support for our EC colleagues and at times offer professional learning opportunities. We have been holding these evenings through Zoom and this has encouraged many more people to attend as it can be done from the comfort of home!

Two of the advisory groups on which we are represented are the Early Childhood Education Advisory Group for the Early Childhood Education Directorate in the Department of Education. With the members of this group we discuss and advise, with others of course, on issues that affect the EC sector in NSW – been rather crowded agendas lately!! We are also represented on the Early Childhood Reference Group for the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) Early Childhood Teaching Standards and Accreditation.

ECA NSW has continued to co-sponsor the NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarship Awards (EC). These scholarships provide teachers with an opportunity to explore their field of expertise by visiting some of the world's most highly acclaimed schools and centres for teaching and learning. The scholarships are a career changing experience for the successful teachers, with benefits from the program felt throughout NSW. ECA co-sponsor this scholarship with Modern Teaching Aids. The winner of the scholarship receives \$15000 and this money goes toward their research and travel. This year's (2020) research and travel has had to be put on hold – for obvious reasons.

In 2020 THINK: Insight & Advice was commissioned by Early Childhood Australia to facilitate a review of its governance arrangements to ensure that they are fit-for-purpose and up to date so that it can fulfil its representative role and manage its performance and risks effectively. The consultations with all Branches and many, many members have concluded and the next step in the process of accepting – or

Acknowledgement of Country

Early Childhood Australia NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original inhabitants of Australia and recognises their culture as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been nurturing and teaching children on this land for thousands of years.

rejecting recommended changes is underway. Hence the proposed special resolution to be considered at our AGM.

We have a NSW Branch newsletter (professionally produced) that details for our members what has been happening with ECA NSW and across the early childhood sector generally. I do hope that you find it useful and of interest. We have had some very positive feedback and useful suggestions for what can be added to it to improve it even further.

COVID19 has side-tracked some of our advocacy efforts, for example all our executive meetings have been conducted online via Zoom. However, as with all of us learning a new way of thinking and being has been challenging and interesting.

Advocacy is also carried out by you, individual ECA members in your professional and personal activities when you make and take opportunities to promote the wellbeing of children, their families and ECA values and principles in general. We are certainly seeing a new appreciation right across Australian society for your important role as teachers and educators. Your membership of Early Childhood Australia enhances our capacity to be a strong voice for children. Each act of advocacy makes a difference.

Thank you to all those Branch members, Regional Representatives and the Executive Committee who have assisted with the work of the Branch over the past twelve months. Your contributions to, and support of, the work of ECA NSW is both valued and appreciated. We would also like to thank the staff of ECA National for all their efforts and continued support of our Branch.

Treasurer's Report

Natalie Grenfell

ECA NSW Treasurer

Early Childhood Australia (NSW) remained in a strong financial position throughout 2020. COVID19 impacted on our operations resulting in the reduction of face-to-face meetings both at an Executive and Regional level, and the postponement of financial scholarships to sector events. This in turn impacted on the number of financial transactions during the year. The income for ECA NSW was \$113,841 and our operating expenses during this year were \$101,769 resulting in an overall operating surplus of \$12,072 for 2020. Our greatest source of income for this period was in our membership fees of \$69,870. This was a significant reduction compared with \$104,143 in membership fees in 2019. As a membership organisation, ECA NSW is reliant on maintaining a strong membership base. Our expenditure on seminars, meetings and presentations to support our members was \$14,464 in 2020, a reduction of \$22,317 compared with expenditure in 2019. Despite the reduction in expenditure, ECA NSW maintained strong links with the membership base through regular, well attended, 'Conversation evenings' for members. ECA NSW was able to offer these 'Conversation evenings' at minimum costs, but with significant benefit to the members providing information on current issues through virtual platforms.

ECA NSW were successful in securing a further year's grant of \$32,038 from the NSW State Government under the Start Strong Special Pathways Program.

Our grant from NSW Department of Education allows us to continue to ensure our members are informed of government policy, funding arrangements and upcoming programs.

During 2020, ECA NSW continued to operate under a finance committee to support the treasurer's position. The committee comprises of Natalie Grenfell (Treasurer), Ian Alchin, Anita Jovanovski, Merise Bickley and Marina Papic.

The Executive will continue to support projects as appropriate.

This is a simplified copy of the Balance Sheet and the Revenue Account. The full audited statements are available to members on request to the Branch email or at the Branch AGM.

Principal activity: The principal activity of the association during the financial year was advocacy for children from birth to eight years through involvement with many other committees and groups who work to achieve quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children. ECA NSW is involved in supporting submissions to government, attending meetings, roundtables, forums etc. of such early childhood organisations. We aim to be accessible to our members through informative conversations evenings, workshops, seminars, conferences and member 'get togethers'.

Financial Report

Balance Sheet

	2020	2019
Current Assets		
Cash	476,937	454,838
Receivables	-	10,762
Total Assets	\$476,937	\$465,601
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	13,158	13,474
Total Liabilities	\$13,158	\$13,474
Net Assets	\$463,779	\$452,126
Equity		
Retained surplus	452,126	451,706
Total Equity	\$463,779	\$451,706

Income & Expenditure

	2020	2019
Income		
Grants: NSW DET EC Policy	32,038	32,038
Membership subscriptions received	69,870	104,143
Conferences and Seminars	6,517	88,288
Interest received	3,516	3,399
Regional activities	-	-
National Conference income	1,900	109,469
Total Income	\$113,841	\$337,339
Expenditure		
Administration	6,142	24,632
Services	16,741	10,767
Seminars, meetings & presentations	14,464	36,781
Contract staff expenses	45,074	37,800
Scholarships	-	-
Conferences	1,107	44,711
Regional activities	18,241	-
Projects	-	-
Total Expenditure	\$101,769	\$154,691
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$12,072	\$182,647

ECA NSW Branch

Branch Executive

President: Carol Burgess

Vice President: Natalie Grenfell

Secretary: Tracey Dooner

Treasurer: Natalie Grenfell

Committee Members

Ian Alchin

Chris Legg

(National President, ECA)

Gabby Holden

Anita Jovanovski

Marina Papic

(National Board Director)

Jan Langtry

Laura Sportelli

Merise Bickley

Regional Representatives

Far North Coast: Janette Leonard

Central Coast: Selma Wastell

New England: Tracey Dooner

Riverina: Tracey Snow

Hunter & Newcastle: Amanda Holt

Illawarra & South Coast: Linda Windley

Western Region: Kelly Tribolet

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