



Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children



Making news this fortnight...

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) CEO Samantha Page appointed to the Early Years Strategy Advisory Panel; affordable early childhood education and care (ECEC) bill passes the Parliament; responding to family violence in ECEC settings; environmental scan of ECEC in Independent schools released; responding to family violence in ECEC settings; lessons from Canada on how educators can thrive; surveys on child health behaviours and educator emotional labour; and participate in the Crayola Creativity Week.

Scroll down to read more, find the latest in state and territory news, and discover what ECA teams have been doing.

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2023 Professional Development Events



KU has just released an exciting calendar of PD events for 2023!



Children's Services



Affordable ECEC bill passes the Parliament

The *Family Assistance Legislation Amendment (Cheaper Child Care) Bill 2022* has passed both houses of parliament with amendments. From July 2023, early childhood education and care will be more affordable for around 96% of families. [Read more.](#)



ECA CEO on the Early Years Strategy Advisory Panel

ECA CEO Samantha Page has been appointed to the 14-member Advisory Panel to inform the development of the Commonwealth Early Years Strategy. The Government will also host a National Early Years Summit in 2023 on how to best support Australia's children and their families in the early years. [Details here.](#)



Environmental scan of ECEC released

Independent Schools Australia (ISA) has released its environmental scan of the early childhood education and care sector today. The report compiles information from different sources and jurisdictions to paint a picture of early childhood education and care in the Independent school sector. [Access here.](#)



Research proposals invited

ECA, on behalf of all governments, is seeking proposals from suitably qualified organisations, consortiums or groups with industrial relations expertise to undertake research to explore and identify the structural barriers to, and strategies for, improving pay and conditions in the ECEC sector. [Learn more.](#)



Responding to family violence in ECEC settings

In [this blog](#) ECA reflects on the role of early childhood education and care in responding to family violence, which puts the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women into an Australian context and provides links to further information and resources.



Lessons from Canada on how educators can thrive

[This article](#) explores the Canadian peer mentoring program model for early childhood educators, which helps staff feel valued and avoid burnout and addresses workforce shortages.



Survey on child health behaviours

Share your knowledge and skills about child health behaviours through [this online survey](#) by Deakin University and go in the draw to win a \$50 supermarket voucher.



Survey on educator emotional labour

University of Sydney researchers are conducting a survey exploring the emotional labour early childhood educators and teachers use in their work with families and its potential impact on their wellbeing. [Participate here](#).



Participate in the Crayola Creativity Week

Sign up for Crayola Creativity Week, running globally on 23–29 January 2023. The campaign aims to nurture young children's minds with free resources and giveaways to spark creativity. [Details here](#).

State and territory news

ACT

Kylie Keane, Education Leader at Forrest Out of School Hours Care and ECA Committee Chair, has been awarded an ACT Children's Week Award for her outstanding contributions to children and young people in the community. [Read more](#).

QLD

The Queensland Government's 'Birdie's Tree' program offers free online storybooks and resources for children to help them understand natural disasters such as floods. The program supports the mental health and emotional wellbeing of babies, young children, and their families facing natural disasters. [Learn more](#).

SA

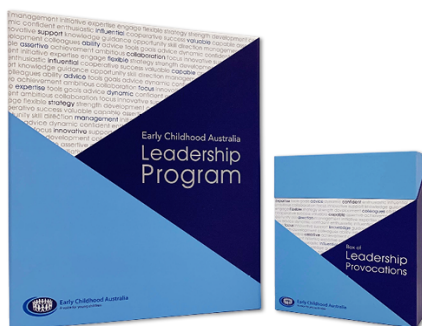
ECA SA's Susan Jackson will participate in one of the SA Royal Commission's stakeholder roundtables on three-year-old preschool. The Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care is also inviting submissions on the development of the universal three-year-old preschool program. [Details here](#).

The SA Government has opened expressions of interest for its Autism Strategic Advisory Committee, believed to be the only state government committee in Australia that is predominantly Autistic led. The public consultation period will run for 12 weeks, including a YourSAY survey and a series of forums. [Details here](#).

TAS

The Justice Miscellaneous (Royal Commission Amendments) Bill 2022 to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse was passed in the House of Assembly in Tasmania. [Read here](#).

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Early Childhood Leadership Program Bundle

Invest in yourself or your future leaders with the ECA Leadership Program and ECA Box of Leadership Provocations bundle. Our Leadership Program was created as a strengths-based, self-directed, short-term program for current and aspiring early childhood leaders in diverse settings.

[Buy here](#).



ECA Podcast

Listen to the ECA Podcast wherever you are. Series one focuses on reconciliation in the early years, with a focus on fostering respect and diversity within early childhood services. [Listen here](#) or search Spotify, Apple Podcast, or your favourite streaming platform.



New on The Spoke

Young children love to engage with music and movement, and naturally enjoy singing, dancing, exploring sound sources, listening, and being creative. [Read](#) Julia Rennick's reflection on the benefits of music education for children.



ECA Shop Summer Sale

[Get in fast!](#) Our bestsellers are on sale for a limited time! All resources are quality assured by early childhood education experts.



Be You supporting transitions

[Supporting transitions with Be You](#) is the first story in a series, with videos, from Tasmania's Discovery Early Learning Centres. See educators supporting school age care children navigating everyday transitions.



Book your ticket!

Kickstart the year with professional learning and secure a spot for the 2023 AJEC Research Symposium (9-10 February). This event will explore the theme of 'Early childhood knowledges, generations and time'. [Book now!](#)



Starting school: Support children and families

Starting school can be challenging for children and parents. Add the *First year at school* guidebook to your toolbox to break down those challenges and expectations and begin the year feeling prepared. [Shop now.](#)

Thank you for your readership this year. WebWatch will be back in 2023 with the latest updates from the sector.

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