

APRIL 2023



Early Childhood
Australia

New South Wales Branch

Newsletter

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

4-7 October 2023

ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Kumarnintha—Becoming one old ways, new wisdom



Kumarnintha – Becoming one: Old ways, new wisdom

is the theme for the 35th ECA National Conference to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, South Australia, Wednesday 4 October to Saturday 7 October 2023.

The theme title reinforces that although we still hold on to and value old ways, theoretical perspectives and knowledge, there is and can be a contemporary approach to implementing this into new wisdom and becoming one. Kumarnintha means 'becoming one' and comes from the South Australian Kurna people.

By using the Kurna language in our conference theme we pay our respect to the Kurna heritage and people of Adelaide and the Adelaide Plains.

The ECA National Conference provides a platform for professional discourse relevant to the rights, wellbeing and early education of young children (birth to eight years). It is attended by early childhood educators, teachers, service leaders and executives, as well as policy-makers, program administrators, academics, researchers and those involved in pre-qualification training and ongoing professional development.



CLICK HERE for the conference scholarship application form. If you would like to apply, completed applications must be submitted on or before 9.00am on Friday 7 July 2023.





Early Childhood Australia

New South Wales Branch

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Conversation EVENINGS 2023



Thursday
18 May, 2023
7pm - 8pm

Dr Deb Brennan **Associate Commissioner**

Professor Deborah Brennan AM was appointed as an Associate Commissioner with the Productivity Commission in February 2023 to work on the Early Childhood Education and Care inquiry.

Deborah Brennan BA Syd., MA Macq., PhD Syd., FASSA, is one of Australia's leading researchers in comparative welfare, family policy and gender and politics. Deborah is Professor Emerita at the Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW and has held visiting positions at the London School of Economics, Oxford University and Trinity College Dublin.

Deborah has served on a range of government committees and advisory bodies. She was also the Inaugural Convenor of the National Association of Community Based Children's Services (1982-1986) and has served on the boards of various research and community organisations, including the Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University (2009-2020) and the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) (1996-2000).

[CLICK HERE to register in advance for this meeting!](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



Thursday 8 June, 2023 7pm - 8pm

Hon Dr Anne Aly MP

Minister for Early Childhood Education

Dr Anne Aly MP has been the Federal Member for Cowan since 2016 and is also the Federal Minister for Early Childhood Education and Minister for Youth in the Albanese Government.

By her late twenties, Anne was a single mother of two young boys earning the minimum wage to put food on the table. She went on to study her Masters and PhD and worked as a professor, academic and practitioner in counter terrorism and countering violent extremism. The founder of People against Violent Extremism, Anne was the only Australian representative to speak at President Obama's 2015 White House summit on countering violent extremism.

Anne is a 2011 inductee into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame, a 2016 nominee for Australian of the Year and a 2016 recipient of the prestigious Australian Security Medal. In 2021, she was awarded the McKinnon Prize for Emerging Political Leader of the Year, in recognition of her Parliamentary work against both right-wing extremism and family & domestic violence.

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Thursday 13 July, 2023 7pm - 8pm

Sam Page

CEO Early Childhood Australia

Samantha Page is the CEO of Early Childhood Australia (ECA), the national peak advocacy organisation for children under eight, their families and professionals in the field of early childhood development and education. ECA was established in 1938 and works with Government, early childhood professionals, parents, other carers of young children, and various lobby groups to advocate to ensure quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children from birth to eight years.

ECA is a not-for-profit membership based organisation. It also has a successful retail and publishing arm, producing a number of very well regarded subscription based publications including the Australian Journal of Early Childhood. Samantha holds a Master's Degree in (Community) Management from the University of Technology, Sydney and she is a Graduate of the Company Directors course offered by the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Her passion is for social equality and she has worked in the non-government sector for 20 years across roles encompassing service delivery, executive management, consulting, social policy analysis and advocacy. She has extensive experience in the development and implementation of social policy and sector development projects.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA

Reconciliation SYMPOSIUM

Advancing reconciliation in early childhood education and care

Hobart, Tasmania • 9–10 June 2023

2023

Attendees at the ECA Reconciliation Symposium will learn about a culture dating back more than 40 000 years by hearing from engaging keynotes and facilitated table discussions will lead to an atmosphere of dialogue, understanding and engagement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants.

The ECA Reconciliation Symposium brings the matter of reconciliation in early childhood into the spotlight and works towards a better future for all Australians.

The symposium will be held over two days and the format will be highly interactive. For those participants who attended last year's Reconciliation Connect event, there will be updates from various speakers plus new presenters and ideas to build on the journey.



ECA NSW is offering six scholarships to help with the cost of registration, travel and accommodation. Please fill in the link below. Applications close Friday 12th May.

Building capacity to thrive

A Be You Virtual Conference

3 and 4 May 2023

Register now

This is a free
2 day event!



The event will focus on key topics such as educator wellbeing, resilience, diversity and inclusion. Over the two days, subject matter experts will explore what it means to “thrive”. They will discuss practical approaches to foster resilient, diverse and inclusive learning communities.

The conference is run entirely online, and attendees can choose to attend one or multiple sessions. If they attend a live Be You Virtual Conference session, they will receive a certificate of participation.

The Be You Virtual Conference is more than a free professional development opportunity. The new version of the **updated learning frameworks** includes a stronger connection between the frameworks and the National Quality Standard in areas such as reconciliation, wellbeing, diversity and inclusion. These coincide with the strong themes of mental health, wellbeing, reconciliation and inclusion throughout the virtual conference program.

Find out more or register here!

Policy NSW & Australian Government inquiries and consultations in 2023

Thanks to ongoing advocacy by many, there are a number of inquiries and consultations taking place on the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) sector to be aware of over the next year.

NSW Government

Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART)



- **Review of Early Childhood Education and Care affordability, accessibility and consumer choice**

IPART released the final Terms of Reference in February 2023. With an interim report due in August 2023 and final report due at the end of 2023, IPART is due to release an issues paper in April 2023.

Australian Government

Productivity Commission



- **Inquiry into Early Childhood Education and Care sector in Australia**

This inquiry examines the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector, including centre-based day care, preschools, family day care, outside school hours care and in home care. The Commission will consider cost and availability barriers that affect access to ECEC services, and ways to support better outcomes for children and families.

With a final report to Government due in June 2024, initial submissions are now open until Friday 19 May 2023.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission



- **Inquiry into the market for the supply of childcare services**

The inquiry will examine and consider matters including costs and availability of labour, the use of land and related costs, finance and administrative costs, regulatory compliance costs, the costs of consumable and the prices charged since 2018 and how these have changed following changes in childcare policy settings.

The ACCC will examine how costs and prices differ by type of provider and size, type of childcare service, age and characteristics of the child in care, geographic location, level of competition and the quality rating of the childcare services provided.

Within an interim report due in June 2023 and final report due at the end of 2023, the ACCC has indicated that they will be running a wide range of consultation and information gathering activities with selected stakeholders.

Department of Social Services



- **National Early Years Strategy**

The Australian Government is developing an Early Years Strategy (the Strategy) to shape its vision for the future of Australia's children and their families. The Strategy will aim to deliver the best possible outcomes for Australian children.

The Strategy will help the Commonwealth create a more integrated, holistic approach to the early years and better support the education, wellbeing and development of Australia's children. It will seek to support improving coordination between Commonwealth programs, funding and frameworks impacting early childhood development.

The Discussion Paper is open for public submissions until 30 April 2023.

Department of Education



- **Draft National ECEC Vision**

National Cabinet has asked the Australian Government in collaboration with state education and early years ministers to develop a national long-term vision for early childhood education and care. The vision will support parents' workforce participation and children's education and development outcomes.

The draft national vision covers all forms of ECEC, including preschool and all forms of child care.

Consultation via a survey or submission ended on 7 April 2023.