



**Early Childhood
Australia**
Tasmania Branch



January 2024

**Message from ECA Tasmania Branch President
Annette Barwick**

Dear ECA Tasmania Branch members

Wishing you 12 months of success,
52 weeks of laughter, 365 days of
fun, 8,760 hours of joy, 525,600
minutes of good luck, and
31,536,000 seconds of happiness.

The Ripple Effect



Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into the water, the actions of individuals can have a far-reaching effect. ~Dalai Lama.

This quote resonated with me as I reflected on 2023. It was a year of reviews, consultations, draft reports, and changes - too many to name individually; however, each one had a ripple in raising the importance of early childhood and the status and standing of the education and care sector workforce.

What a year; it must be said that 2023 was probably the first time in history that early childhood was such a huge topic of focus both on the political, public and social agenda. In saying this, we cannot rest on our laurels; each and every one of us has an important part to play. ECA Tasmania Branch cannot do this alone as we are on an important pathway to significant change and change that will better celebrate the importance and vital role that the profession plays in young children's lives, their families, and communities. Contact us today to see how you can become involved as an agent of change.

2024 is here! With new resolutions and goals, people across the nation welcomed what is hoped to be an inspiring and great year ahead. We know there will be continued challenges, but ones we will again face with the same courage, commitment and resilience seen so many times in our sector. 2024 calls for leaving behind the old, embracing the new, and stepping into 2024 with open hearts, open minds, and a renewed energy in advocating for children, families and indeed the early and middle childhood profession.

ECA Tasmania Branch is strengthening our advocacy work for the Tasmanian sector, through the workforce projects, Industry Skills Compact for Education and Care, various representation work and renewing our commitment to supporting the sector through the provision of quality professional learning opportunities.

We want to hear from you and your ideas of what would support you and your teams in 2024 so that we can plan our year targeted to your voice.

Please let us know by emailing ecatas@earlychildhood.org.au

2024 ECA Tasmania Branch Committee Members

President	Annette Barwick
Vice President	Jo Walsh
Treasurer	Sebastian Tuttle
Secretary	Jann Williams
Public Officer	Kate Whitebread
ECA National President	Trevor Brown

Committee:

Jo Canavan

Kellie Watson

Lauren Armstrong

Mel Prewer-Reid

Gail Eaton-Briggs (co-opted)

Contact Details: ecatas@earlychildhood.org.au

ECA Tasmania Branch Committee Meeting Schedule

Outlined below is the schedule of the ECA Tasmania Branch Committee meetings. Contact a committee member if you have an item you would like to raise with the committee.

Date of Meeting	Date Agenda item required by:
6 th February 2024	26 th January 2023
26 th March 2024	15 th March 2024
14 th May 2024	3 rd May 2024
25 th June 2024	14 th June 2024
6 th August 2024	26 th July 2024
27 th August 2024	AGM



Early Childhood Australia National Conference 2023,
Kumarnintha—Becoming one: *Old ways, new wisdom.* —
Adelaide

ECA Tasmania Branch has for many years funded current member(s) to participate in ECA National Conference. The funding for this is made available through a bequest made by the Bates Family to ECA Tasmania Branch many years ago. The bequest stipulates that the funds are used to further the professional development of an early childhood professional. In the past many early childhood professionals have accessed this opportunity and gained enormous value from the experience.

The 2023 recipient was Bec Churchill – Family Day Care Field Coordinator – Adventure Patch.

This sponsorship is a wonderful opportunity for members to be exposed to current research and practice through keynote addresses and workshops by professionals in the sector. Bec shares her experience below.

My experience at the ECA Conference in Adelaide 4th- 7th October.

I was excited to hear that I had won the scholarship for the Conference where the ECA Tas branch took care of all the travel details so I could concentrate on being there and immersing myself in the learning and shared thinking.

The conference app was great as it allowed you to choose your lectures and take notes directly onto it with the ability to send them directly to your email address once you finished writing them. You could add contacts of the people you met and can message them. I spent a lot of time studying which session to choose before flying out, so I was prepared to start on the Thursday.

On the first day we registered and picked up our badges, a beautiful journal, and the *Statement on Play* book. Then we were free to look around the beautiful city of Adelaide for the afternoon, before attending the Welcome Reception. The reception was a great opportunity to have a look around the exhibition hall at the variety of exhibitors that attended and to meet other delegates. There were plenty of brochures, treats, giveaways, resources to purchase and opportunity to talk with the exhibitors. The exhibitors were there for the whole conference and there were so many that I didn't get a chance to see them all.

There was a quick and easy opportunity to win lots of prizes by scanning the QR codes at the exhibitors' stalls. I was lucky enough to win one of those prizes and the children loved it.

The ECA TAS branch organised nibbles and drinks event on the first night where I had the opportunity to meet other Tas delegates. It was lovely to meet everyone and then to see those faces in the crowd to chat to and to see them in some of the sessions.

At the beginning of the conference we were Welcomed to Country by Aunty Suzanne Russell whose welcome was warm and a great way to kick off the event. Throughout the conference there were a lot of great keynote speakers that were very interesting. Some of which I could have listened to all day as they were very interesting and informative.

There was a wide variety of sessions to attend, and it was hard to choose which ones to attend. I was happy to see some sessions based around Family Day Care which is my current field.

I was excited to see Ann Stonehouse was in attendance and I attended her session which was thought provoking and informative. I tried very hard not to fan girl her when I saw her later in the exhibition hall. I had an interesting conversation at the live wires exhibit about the use of artificial intelligence for programming and writing observations. Some great thoughts were put forward to reflect on with my team.

There were a lot of new learnings and provocations to our current thoughts and perspectives.

Although the days were jammed packed there were enough breaks with great food to recharge the brain ready for the next round of sessions.

I came away with a lot of information that has already proven useful to me as I have been able to share some of the learnings with some educators who benefited from the topic at the time. Such as the Marte Meo approach for example.

We had access to the sessions prerecorded or recorded during the conference once the conference had ended so that I could revisit the sessions I attended if I wished and see the sessions that I was unable to attend. Which is fantastic and I took the opportunity to do so.

I look forward to sharing more information in the weeks/months to come with my team and educators. Especially the embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in Family Day Care.

I had a wonderful time at the conference and would highly recommend going if you can next year. I would like to thank ECA Tas Branch for the opportunity to attend this year's conference. I got a lot out of it and am sure that whoever attends next year will do as well.

Bec Churchill

Workforce Projects Update

There are several initiatives that services can tap into to support their current workforce challenges. Don't be left behind, contact details are outlined below to arrange a meeting to see what can benefit you and your service in addressing the workforce crisis.

Early Years & School Age Care Workforce Strategy

(Kellie Watson - Project Manager)

kellie.watson@ecatas.org.au

Community Services Industry Plan - Workforce Coordination Project

(Kerrie Hansen - Senior Project Officer)

kerrie.hansen@ecatas.org.au