

Newsletter



We continue to move through Noongar Season 'Djilba in September' which is represented by the colour pink as it symbolises growth of wildflowers and plants. It is the start of the massive flowering explosion that happens in the South West. As the days start to warmup, we begin to hear the first of the newborns in nature with their proud parents out and about providing them with food. The woodland birds are still nest bound, hence the swooping protective behaviour of the koolbardi (magpie), djidi djidi (willy wag tails) and chuck-a-luck (wattle birds). As the season progresses and the temperatures continue to rise, the flower stalks of the balgas (Grass Trees) emerge in preparation for the coming Kambarang season.

Kaya

What a month we are about to have. We announced two more life members to the ECAWA crew. Two more dedicated people with over 10 years serving on committee as well as advocating for the early years sector for much longer. Sally Whittaker and Denise Clarke, working with you both is amazing. Your passion and dedication to not only our organisation, but to the enrichment of children's lives is so important to our mission. Congratulations.

Events coming up:

National conference has been sold out, however there are still virtual passes.

State Conference has a few places left with only days to go, so get in fast!

With a fantastic line up of events it will be an exciting time.

We also have a cross sector event being held, this will be a great time to ask questions that have been burning a hole in your thinking.

Have a great September!
Tanya



ECA WA COMMITTEE

Chair: Tanya Steers

Admin: Jo Kapica

Committee Members

- Rosina Smith
- Jayne Kaiko
- Sally Whittaker
- Amelia Ruscoe
- Amie Fabry
- Olivia Long
- Dimity Franks
- Sally Griffiths
- Linda Santangeli
- Danielle Arrigoni
- Wendy Gorman

Membership/Executive

- Tanya Steers (Chair)
- Amie Fabry
- Dani Arrigoni

Conference

- Dimity Franks
- Amelia Ruscoe
- Linda Santangeli
- Amie Fabry
- Tanya Steers

Pedagogy

- Sally Griffiths
- Jayne Kaiko
- Rosina Smith
- Marcelle Saratsis
- Lauren Ferguson

Reconciliation (RAG)

- Wendy Gorman
- Sally Whittaker
- Olivia Long
- Denise Clarke
- Leonie Cottam
- Pamela Chatfield
- Sandy Clarke

2024 ECAWA State Conference

PROGRAM OUT NOW



Saturday 21 September
ECU Mt Lawley

Wage Increase For Early Childhood Workforce

In an effort to support the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector, the Australian Government has introduced a series of wage increases and retention payments. *Grant applications are expected to open in October 2024.*

More details on the eligibility requirements will be released soon. Until then, there are some steps you can take to get ready for the payment. These include:

**Limit fee growth to no more than 4.4%.*

**Prepare to pay your staff through a compliant workplace instrument*

**Make sure you have your provider and service CRNs ready for when you apply. You can find these on the Provider Entry Point (PEP) or your third-party software.*

Learn [about the payment](#) and find [answers to questions](#) here.

Round 4 Open

Attraction & Retention Packages for Regional Child Care Workers Program

Grants of up to \$25,000 are available to support regional Local Government Authorities with early childhood education and care educator attraction and retention initiatives.

[Grants now open to attract child care educators to regions \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

A webinar for interested Local Government Authorities and sector stakeholders will be hosted by Dept of Communities on Wednesday, 11 September 2024 at 11am.

To RSVP for the webinar, please email eclir@communities.wa.gov.au

by Monday, 9 September.



Photo: Dale Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Shark Bay; and Marie Gamble, Day Care Educator, Denham In Venue Family Day Care.



Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia

Cross Sector CONVERSATIONS & CONNECTIONS

Join ECAWA, AISWA, CEWA, SCSA & the Department of Education for an afternoon of conversation and connection.

Come along to network and hear from representatives from SCSA and each of our school sectors as they respond to your questions about the early years of school.

When: 10th October 4pm-6pm

Where: AISWA Suite 3/41 Walters Drive, Osborne Park

Event schedule

4pm: arrival and afternoon tea 4.30-5.00pm Wendy Gorman and the AISWA team will run a session on using Makedo in your early childhood classroom to support play-based learning.

5.00-6.00pm Panel discussion with AISWA, CEWA, SCSA and DoE, hosted by ECAWA

CLICK THE LINK TO BOOK:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CVCJS>

*Members
are free!*

What is Be You?

Be You is the federally funded, national mental health in education initiative delivered by Beyond Blue, in collaboration with Early Childhood Australia and headspace.

Be You's vision is for all learning communities to be positive, inclusive and responsive - a place where every child, young person, educator and family is empowered to achieve their best possible mental health and wellbeing.

Do you want to make lasting, positive change to the mental health and wellbeing of the children, educators and families in your early learning service?

Be You is more than just professional learning, resources and tools. Your learning community has access to the ongoing free support of a dedicated Be You Consultant to assist you in implementing Be You in your setting.

For support to unpack and plan how to use this resource, the Beyond Self-Care: An Educator Wellbeing Guide, register your learning community and a Be You consultant will be in touch to provide support in implementing Be You in your setting.



With delivery partners



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Early STEM Education

Awards Winners Announced

The state, territory and national winners of the 2024 Little Scientists Early STEM Education Awards have been announced. The awards recognise educators and services driving STEM education for children aged birth to seven years. [See all the winners and read more.](#)

Moerlina School, Mount Claremont has won for their project "What is Parkour?", in which the children built an obstacle course inspired by ballet and parkour. They learnt about how various objects push, pull, and move and tested hypotheses about how bigger and smaller children would perform in the course. The children even incorporated artistic dance and movements to complete their obstacle course!



Upcoming Calendar Days:

Upcoming calendar dates to consider acknowledging in your service. Click on the link for more details.

[Indigenous Literacy Day](#) (7 September)

[National Bilby Day](#) (11 September)

[RUOK Day?](#) (12 September)

[International Day Of Sign Languages](#)
(23 September)

[Save the Koala Day](#) (28 September)