

Newsletter



Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia



Welcome to Noongar season, Bunuru! The hottest and driest season of the Noongar calendar. For this reason, Bunuru was a time when Noongar family groups would gather by the coast, fishing in freshwater and coastal areas. Freshwater and saltwater fish were a primary food source at this time. With their understanding of the patterns of nature, Noongar people were able to live safely, sustainably and respectfully in relation to the natural cycles of land, plants and animals.

From the WA Chair:

Kaya everyone,

As Bunuru brings its warmth and change, we're reminded of the deep connections between Noongar knowledge, Country, and science. This month, I'm pleased to hand over to Mikayla King, who will share how we can engage with Noongar scientific practices in our classrooms and early learning services.

Over to you, Mikayla...

Kaya everyone! It feels like we are in Bunuru with the warm weather, cool afternoon winds and the beautiful flowering gums. Developing a relationship with Country helps us identify all of its changes. This has been a scientific practice of Noongar peoples for over 80,000 years. Come and learn more about Noongar scientific practices and how you can work with and through Noongar science knowledges in your school or early learning service at our upcoming webinar. You will get to explore a new way of engaging in STEM practices through the lens of Aboriginal knowledges, supported by research, quality resources and real-world examples in practice. Please join us on the 25th March, from 6-8pm online as we share how to work with Aboriginal STEM knowledges in the Classroom and Early Learning Service.

Kind Regards, Mikayla King

ECA WA COMMITTEE

Executive

Chair: Tanya Steers

Secretary: Amie Fabry

Treasurer: Dani Arrigoni

Committee Members

Rosina Smith

Jayne Kaiko

Amelia Ruscoe

Amie Fabry

Olivia Long

Dimity Franks

Sally Griffiths

Danielle Arrigoni

Wendy Gorman

Deb Cavanagh

Emma Gardner

Tricia Ward

Admin: Jo Kapica

Subcommittees:

Reconciliation In Action (RAG)

Pedagogy

Events/Membership

Our sub committees work hard to provide an exciting calendar of events. If you are interested in joining one of our subcommittees in 2025, please reach out!

ecawa@earlychildhood.org.au

Twilight Tour Series

SHOWCASING:
CURTIN UNIVERSITY ELC

EXPLORE BEST PRACTICES
NETWORK & CONNECT
BE INSPIRED



Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia

TUESDAY, 18 MARCH
6:00 - 8:00 PM
CURTIN UNIVERSITY

ECA MEMBERS \$10
NON MEMBERS \$15

PLACES ARE LIMITED
Book Now!

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



Find us on [Facebook](#)

Webinar:

Working with Aboriginal STEM Knowledges in the Classroom

25th March, 2025

6 pm to 8 pm

The Professional Learning session provides the opportunity for educators to explore a new way of engaging with STEM through the lens of Aboriginal knowledges, supported by research, quality resources, and real-world learning experiences. This session connects directly with SCSA, AITSL, and EYLF.

Presented by:



MIKAYLA KING



PRESTON CULBONG

ECAWA
MEMBERS
\$30

NON
MEMBERS
\$50



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

Brought to you by:



Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia



Building Strong Family Partnerships

Family engagement is a known protective factor for children's mental health. A collaborative approach, where the learning community and families work closely together, is more likely to contribute to a child's development, learning, mental health and wellbeing. Strong partnerships with families can also benefit educators by promoting collaboration, open communication and enabling deeper connections. This promotes understanding and a sense of belonging for both the child and educator.

Families can include parents, carers, grandparents and kin who care for a child.

There are five key principles of effective family partnerships: trust, empathy, family-centred practice, engagement and inclusion and diversity. Reflection: How can you build trust and empathy when interacting with children and families in your early learning service?

Learn more from the [Partner module](#) in the Family Partnership domain.



Professional Development Subsidies – Applications Close This Week!

⌚ Deadline: Friday, 14 March 2025

Professional Development Subsidy

The professional development subsidy supports qualified staff in completing training. The paid practicum subsidy helps early childhood teachers and educators in training complete their practicums.

- ✓ Subsidies are paid to providers, who pass the funding on to staff through training opportunities and paid leave.
- ✓ Providers must apply on behalf of staff.

[Learn more about professional development opportunities](#)

Practicum Exchange Living Allowance

– Applications Close This Week!

⌚ Deadline: Friday, 14 March 2025

The Practicum Exchange Network is a dedicated website connecting early childhood education and care services with educators in training.

💡 Eligible educators working in the sector may receive a living allowance to complete a practicum in a rural or remote area outside their home location.

- ✓ Providers must apply on behalf of eligible staff.

[Learn more about the living allowance](#)

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE CALENDAR



10–11 April 2025 Hunter Valley, NSW

regionalruralremote EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM *brought to you by Early Childhood Australia*

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) is pleased to announce the inaugural **Regional, Rural and Remote Early Childhood Forum**, will convene on Thursday 10 and Friday 11 April 2025 at the Rydges Resort Hunter Valley, NSW.

The **Regional, Rural and Remote Early Childhood Forum**, brought to you by **Early Childhood Australia**, is an event dedicated to empowering early childhood professionals working in, and together with, regional, rural and remote communities. This forum provides a unique opportunity to connect with peers, build lasting networks, and learn from sector experts and researchers, all while focusing on the distinct challenges and opportunities facing early childhood education and care in these areas.

Designed with the unique needs of individuals and communities across these locations, the forum offers a two-day program featuring inspiring keynote speakers, expert-led discussions and breakout sessions tailored to enhance leadership skills and support innovative solutions. Share challenges, successes and practical strategies with others navigating similar circumstances, and return to your community inspired to champion access to quality early education and care for all children.



2025 ECA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

1–4 OCT
PERTH

UNIVERSAL NOT UNIFORM

*Leading change, strengthening unity
and honouring individuality*



Reconciliation SYMPOSIUM 2025

Advancing reconciliation in early childhood education and care

Gimuy (Cairns) • 16–17 May 2025

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2025 ECA Reconciliation Symposium Program is here!

We are excited to launch this year's program, set against the stunning backdrop of Gimuy (Cairns)—a region rich in both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

[Explore the program here](#)

[Register your team today](#) and take advantage of our 3-ticket promotion!



Australasian Journal of Early Childhood
AJEC

2025
Research Symposium
Leading research; leading practice
Wednesday 1 October
Edith Cowan University,
Perth

In-person