



regionalruralremote

EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM

brought to you by Early Childhood Australia

Day 1—Thursday 10 April 2025

PROGRAM

Time (AEST)	Session		
8.00 am – 9.00 am	Registration		
9.00 am – 9.10 am	Welcome to Country—Uncle Warren Taggart		
9.10 am – 9.30 am	Welcome message and program overview—Sam Page, CEO, Early Childhood Australia		
9.30 am – 9.50 am	Welcoming address—Mark Barraket, Deputy Secretary for Early Childhood Outcomes, NSW Department of Education		
9.50 am – 10.30 am	Keynote address—Beyond managing: developing a deeper understanding of children's behaviour Professor Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett, University of Wollongong		
10.30 am – 11.00 am	Morning tea		
11.00 am – 11.55 am	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	The 'Exemplary Early Childhood Educators at Work' study: what did we learn? Professor Frances Press, Griffith University	Implementing a systems approach to trauma-informed care and practice Selma Wastell, Lean into Learning	Building a strong and valued early education and care sector Michele Carnegie, CELA and Daniela Kavoukas, CCC and Laura Stevens, CELA and CCC
11.55 am – 12.05 pm	Room change		
12.05 pm – 1.00 pm	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	AI in early childhood: hype or helpful? Associate Professor Kate Highfield, University of Canberra	Cross-disciplinary practice—supporting children and families Blake Stewart, Reimagine Australia	Workforce building strategies for standalone services Paul Mondo, Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA)
1.00 pm – 1.50 pm	Lunch		
1.50 pm – 2.45 pm	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	Management Fundamentals: employer obligations Ian Alchin, Western Sydney University	Transitions Rod Soper, Thinkers.inq	Upholding professional boundaries in a small/isolated area Emma Woods, Be You
2.45 pm – 2.55 pm	Room change		
2.55 pm – 3.50 pm	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	Let them play: embracing neurodiversity Rhi Sugars, The Atypical Educator	The kindness kaleidoscope Natalie Youd and Rosan Organ, Salamander Early Education	Partnering with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Karen Minter and Maurita Cavanough, SNAICC – National Voice for our Children
3.50 pm – 4.20 pm	Afternoon tea		
4.20 pm – 5.00 pm	Conversation on thriving services in rural and regional communities. Facilitated by Catharine Hydon with: - Andrew Paterson, Family Day Care Australia - Amy Shine, Forbes Preschool - Aunty Frayne Barker, Gainmara Birrilee Preschool - Amanda Holt, Possum Place Child Care Centre		
5.00 pm – 6.00 pm	Networking function		

NB: Program subject to change without notice.



regionalruralremote

EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM

brought to you by Early Childhood Australia

Day 2—Friday 11 April 2025

PROGRAM

Time (AEST)	Session		
9.00 am – 9.20 am	Welcome back—Sam Page, CEO, Early Childhood Australia		
9.20 am – 9.40 am	Address—The Hon Fiona Nash, Regional Education Commissioner		
9.40 am – 10.20 am	Keynote address—Workforce insights and capability Emma King OAM, HumanAbility		
10.20 am – 10.45 am	Morning tea		
10.45 am – 11.40 am	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	Learning to talk: how to support infant and toddler language development during everyday experiences Professor Sheila Degotardi, Macquarie University	Cultivating healthy eating habits through play-based learning Leanne Elliston, Nutrition Australia ACT	Diverse perspectives of the quality improvement journey Rhonda Livingstone and Kate Higginbottom, ACECQA
11.40 am – 11.50 am	Room change		
11.50 am – 12.45 pm	Concurrent sessions		
	Merlot Room	Cabernet Room	Sauvignon Room
	Impactful conversations with families Rod Soper, Thinkers.inq	Inclusive education in the early years Dr Kathy Cologon, Macquarie University	Mungindi's early childhood education journey: in conversation with Catharine Hydon Lisa Orchin and Rachel Cubis, Moree Plains Shire Council
12.45 pm – 1.45 pm	Lunch		
1.45 pm – 2.25 pm	Keynote address—Cultivating leadership in ECEC: trouble, complexity and promise Dr Leanne Gibbs, Charles Sturt University		
2.25 pm – 2.30 pm	Closing remarks—Sam Page, CEO, Early Childhood Australia		
2.30 pm	Close of forum		
2.30 pm – 3.30 pm	Afternoon tea, networking and farewell		

NB: Program subject to change without notice.