

Newsletter



Early Childhood Australia
Western Australia



Bunuru is the hottest part of the Noongar seasonal calendar and is often associated with strong easterly winds in the morning and cooler sea breezes later in the day. Traditionally, people spent more time near the coast during Bunuru, where the ocean provided food and relief from the heat. Marine life plays an important role in this season, with fish and shellfish forming an important part of daily life. For young children, Bunuru offers opportunities to explore connections between people, place and the sea. Educators and carers might invite children to notice the role of water in keeping living things healthy, talk about coastal environments and the animals that live there, or explore how communities care for oceans and waterways. Bunuru encourages us to slow down, observe the natural world and recognise how people have long adapted their ways of living to the rhythms of the seasons.

Kaya,

As Bunuru continues across Noongar Country, we hope the start of the year has brought opportunities for connection and renewed energy across your services, classrooms and communities.

In this edition we share a range of updates from across the sector, including developments in early childhood qualifications, national child safety reforms and new resources that support educators in their work with children and families. We are also pleased to highlight a beautiful Noongar language resource for educators and young children, along with research exploring the role of intentional teaching within play-based learning.

We also invite you to join us at our upcoming **WA Networking Sundowner – Barefoot Bowls**, a relaxed opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and strengthen the professional relationships that support our sector.

As always, thank you for the important work you do each day supporting children, families and communities across Western Australia.

Warm regards,
Tanya Steers
Chair
Early Childhood Australia WA

ECA WA COMMITTEE

- Chair:** Tanya Steers
- Secretary:** Rosina Smith
- Treasurer:** Dani Arrigoni
- Committee Members**
- Amelia Ruscoe
- Olivia Long
- Dimity Franks
- Sally Griffiths
- Wendy Gorman
- Deb Cavanagh
- Emma Gardner
- Tricia Ward
- Ann Lochore
- Admin:** Jo Kapica

Our committee work with passion to provide an exciting calendar of events and professional growth opportunities. If you are interested in joining one of our special interest groups in 2026, please reach out!

ecawa@earlychildhood.org.au



Find us on [Facebook](#)

DON'T MISS OUT!

Join colleagues from across the early childhood sector for a relaxed evening of connection and conversation.

Our WA networking sundowner is a chance to step away from the busy day-to-day of early childhood work. Enjoy a BBQ dinner, reconnect with familiar faces, meet new colleagues, and try your hand at barefoot bowls as the sun sets.

[BOOK YOUR PLACE HERE](#)

NETWORKING SUNDOWNER

BAREFOOT BOWLS & BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Make new connections, exchange ideas and step into the new year with a stronger network.

20 MARCH, 2026

TIME: 6:00 PM

Enjoy a BBQ dinner and refreshments then unwind with a game of barefoot bowls as the sun sets.

Como Bowling Club
99 Hensman St, South Perth

Visit our website for membership
www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

ECA WA MEMBERS FREE

NON MEMBERS ARE WELCOME \$10



BOOK NOW



NATIONAL AND STATE UPDATES

National Update – Review of Early Childhood Qualifications

A national review of two key early childhood education and care qualifications is now underway, providing the sector with an opportunity to help shape future training pathways.

HumanAbility has launched a project to review and update the **Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care** and the **Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care**, working in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Education and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The review aims to ensure qualifications reflect contemporary early childhood practice and the evolving needs of the workforce. Areas being considered include play-based pedagogy, inclusion and support for children with disability, child safety and wellbeing, and cultural responsiveness.

Early childhood professionals are encouraged to contribute feedback through the national consultation process, with online surveys and workshops available across Australia.

Consultation closes 31 May 2026.

[Find out more and contribute feedback here](#) 


Perth Consultation Workshop – Have Your Say

As part of the national review of the Certificate III and Diploma in Early Childhood Education and Care, a consultation workshop will be held in Perth for educators, providers and others working across the sector. The session will explore current workforce challenges, emerging skills needs and opportunities to strengthen how early childhood qualifications reflect contemporary practice. Feedback from participants will help inform potential updates to qualifications, units of competency and training pathways.

Perth workshop details

 Tuesday 5 May 2026

 9:00am – 4:30pm

 Four Points by Sheraton
707 Wellington Street, Perth

[Click here register](#) 

National Child Safety Training Now Available

The new National Child Safety Training – Foundation Course is now available for people working and volunteering in early childhood education and care services regulated under the National Quality Framework.

The training supports educators and service teams to strengthen child safety practice and meet their legal safeguarding obligations. It is mandatory for all ECEC staff and volunteers, with services required to ensure completion within six months. Ongoing, the training must be completed every two years.

The free training has been developed by the Australian Centre for Child Protection and is delivered through the Australian Government's Gecco online learning platform.


[Find out more or access the training here](#) 

National Early Childhood Worker Register Now Live

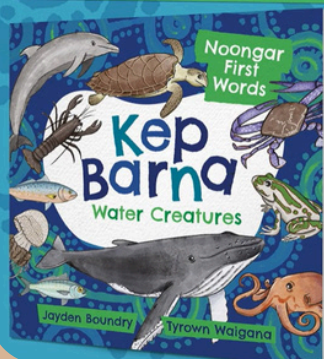
The new National Early Childhood Worker Register is now active, marking another step in national reforms to strengthen oversight and child safety across the sector.

Approved providers are now required to record and maintain information about the educators and staff working in their services. Regulatory authorities will use the register to better understand the workforce across services and support monitoring of risks.

ACECQA will continue providing guidance for services on how to enter and maintain information in the register.

[Learn more by visiting ACECQA's website here](#) 

Pronunciation guide



Jayden Boundary

Introduces

Kep Barna

Water Creatures

Exploring Noongar Language with Children

Our Reconciliation Action Group has shared a lovely resource for educators exploring Noongar language with young children.

Kep Barna – Water Creatures, by Jayden Boundary and Tyrown Waigana, is the second book in the Noongar First Words series and introduces children to Noongar and English words through animals found in local waterways across Noongar Country.

Babies and toddlers will enjoy the engaging illustrations of Maali (Black Swan), Kwilena (Dolphin) and Maamoong (Whale) while beginning to hear and recognise Noongar language.

A short video is also available where Jayden Boundary demonstrates the pronunciation of the Noongar words used in the book.

[Watch here](#)



Play in Practice – Intentional Teaching Through Play

Recent research from the Australian Education Research Organisation (AERO) is highlighting the important role of intentional teaching within play-based learning.

The research shows that when educators observe children's interests and thoughtfully extend their thinking through questions, materials and shared exploration, play becomes a powerful context for deeper learning. Intentional interactions during play can support children's language development, problem-solving and social skills while maintaining the joy and creativity that sit at the heart of early childhood education.

As the sector continues to move beyond the outdated "play versus teaching" debate, the focus is increasingly on how educators can intentionally support children's learning within rich play experiences.

[Learn more about the research here](#)

Supporting Online Safety with Young Children

Healthy Harold, the much-loved mascot from Life Ed, is now helping early learners explore online safety through a new module designed for children aged 3–5 years.

The program, Harold's Safe Screen Time, introduces young children to the foundations of online safety, including recognising when something feels unsafe, knowing when to ask for help, and developing healthy screen habits.

The module supports early conversations about digital safety in age-appropriate ways and can be delivered through Life Ed's early childhood programs.

[Learn more about the module or make a booking here](#)

Harold's Safe Screen Time

new online safety module

for the early years

