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ACA VICTORIA EXCELLENCE IN ECEC CONFERENCE SERIES

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2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Series **Registration Brochure**

18 & 19 August 2017, Crown Conference Centre 8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Melbourne

Who Are We?

ACA Victoria is a not for profit membership based organisation that supports Long Day Care Centres. Membership of ACA Victoria is about producing high quality outcomes across the Early Childhood Education and Care sector. The quality and breadth of our work reflects the dedication and commitment of our Executive Team and Staff.

Our Values

Our values are to:

- Provide **leadership** in Early Childhood Education and Care
- Enable members to provide the highest **quality** of care to their families
- Act with integrity, be honest, develop trust and do what we say we will do
- Respect our members and the parents and children in their care
- Consult with and provide the highest levels of service and **support** to our members





Welcome to our 2017 Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care Conference Series



Building on the success of its conferences in previous years, in 2017 ACA Victoria presents the unique and high quality Excellence in ECEC Conference Series. The series will feature not only a two-day Conference at Melbourne's stunning Crown Conference Centre but also, for all Conference delegates, 4 webinars in the lead up to the Conference directly relating to the themes and topics covered in the Series.

ACA Victoria's Conference has built a solid reputation for the quality of its educational program. Continuing this tradition, our 2017 speakers will provide a range of evidence based education, designed to enable delegates to practically apply insights and improve the quality of care delivered in services across Australia every day. The entire program of webinars and Conference will provide delegates with a possible 13.5 hours of Professional Development, from a total of 24 possible sessions.

The Series Program is divided into 4 streams of content linked to the VEYLDF & NQF, namely; Learning & Development, Literacy & Numeracy, Culture, Diversity & Wellbeing and Leadership & Viability. In this way, at all times, there will be a topic of interest to anyone involved in the delivery of early childhood education and care, in whichever service type they work.

The 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series presents a valuable opportunity for peer-to-peer networking, allowing the exchange of best practice information and insights. Delegates will also have opportunities to interact and engage with a large number of Sponsors and Exhibitors.

Importantly, the Excellence in ECEC Conference Series is eligibile for LDCPDP funding, subject to compliance with guidelines and payment by 30 June 2017.

On behalf of the Australian Childcare Alliance Victoria, I look forward to welcoming you to the 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series for what I know will be a fantastic educational, networking and social experience.

Kind regards, Paul Mondo (President) Australian Childcare Alliance Victoria

2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Series Webinars

The 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series will commence with 4 live webinars accessible via your computer or smartphone. These webinars serve to enhance and extend the value of educational and learning opportunities for delegates. The webinars will take place across the following dates and topics:

Suzy Edwards-Learning-Webinar



Thursday 4 May 2017 – 12.00-13.00

Play Based Learning and Intentional Teaching NQS QA 1.1.5, 1.2.2

Play-based learning is a cornerstone of early childhood education provision. Play provides opportunities for young children to explore ideas, experiment with materials and express new understandings. Play can be solitarily, quiet and reflective. Play can also be social, active and engaging. While play is frequently understood as the basis for learning in early childhood education, this is not always the situation in all settings. Cultural variations in learning and play suggest that social interactions and observational learning also create powerful pedagogical learning environments for young children. International and national research highlights the value of sustained and reflective interactions between children and educators in promoting children's learning. Increasingly, the notion of quality in play-based pedagogy invites educators to integrate traditional beliefs about play with new insights into the role of social interactions, modelling and relationships in young children's learning.

Overseas, the movement towards toward quality play-based pedagogy reflects debate and policy initiatives captured by the notion of intentional teaching. In Australia, the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) makes explicit reference to intentional teaching. Intentional teaching arguably engages educators and children in shared thinking and problem solving to build young children's learning outcomes. However, the pedagogical relationship between play-based learning and intentional teaching remains difficult to conceptualise. This is because the value placed on the exploratory potential of play-based learning can appear to be at odds with the role of intentional teaching in promoting knowledge development. This presentation reaches beyond binary constructs of play and intentional teaching, and invites consideration of a new Pedagogical Play-framework for inspiring pedagogical and curriculum innovative in the early years.

Presented by Professor Suzy Edwards See page 11 for bio

Linda Franco-Wellbeing-Webinar



Thursday 25 May 2017 - 12.00-13.00

Understanding Child Abuse and How to Respond NQS QA 2.3.4

Child Wise works in partnership with organisations to provide expertise and support to create and maintain child safe environments. Adapted from Child Wise's award winning programs, and supplemented by evidence from national and international research, this webinar will provide greater awareness and understanding of child abuse.

The topics covered will include the nature and prevalence of child abuse, the indicators of child abuse, prevention

and risk management, and how to respond to concerns or disclosures of abuse. The webinar will inform individuals of their professional duty of care responsibilities, and equip them with vital knowledge to help keep children in their care safe from harm.

Presented by Linda Franco, Child Wise See page 17 for bio

2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Series Webinars

Heather Barnes-Literacy-Webinar



Thursday 22 June 2017 - 12.00-13.00

What Does Excellence Look Like? NOS 0A 7.2.1. 7.2.3

Under the National Quality Framework, the 'Excellent' rating is the highest rating an education and care service can achieve and can only be applied for if the services' current rating is Exceeding the National Quality Standard.

This session will enable you to learn from and be inspired by three Victorian services that are examples of exemplary practice, innovation and creativity. Each service has their own strengths and each context is very different but

they continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement.

The session will encourage you to reflect on what you might learn from these services and how your own service might aspire to be recognised as a service of excellence.

Presented by Heather Barnes OAM See page 9 for bio

Allan Preiss-Leadership-Webinar



Wednesday 19 July 2017 - 12.00-13.00

Encouraging and Facilitating Career Development NQS QA 7.2.2

What does career development look like when we now work in very flat organisations? In our early childhood centres there are a limited number of director and room leader roles. But that doesn't mean there is no scope for career development – it just means we need to think about it differently.

We need to see sideways movement in a centre as form of career progression and we must see the deepening of our professional knowledge and skill as furthering our careers. Whilst each centre has a responsibility to provide systems and processes to encourage and facilitate career development each educator must steer their own careers.

In this webinar we will look at the systems and processes that centres should implement with their educators and will also look at some tools that educators can use to steer their careers and deepen and broaden their professional knowledge and skills.

Presented by Allan Preiss, McArthur See page 20 for bio

How to Access These Webinars:

Upon registering for the 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series, you will be automatically entitled to participate in the Series Webinars and will receive an email with login details for each webinar as they approach.

These webinars will also be recorded and made available to all registered delegates, including those who register for the 2017 Excellence in ECEC Series after one or more webinars have occurred.

Please note: These webinars are not available outside of the 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series.

Conference Program

Thursday 17 August 2017

5.00pm - 7.00pm **Registration Open**

Friday 18 August 2017

8.30am - 9.15am	Registration & Exhibition Open				
9.15am – 9.30am	Welcome to Country and Opening Address Paul Mondo				
9.30am - 10.30am	Keynote Address: Just What We Need! Tim Longhurst				
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer				
	Learning & Development	Literacy & Numeracy	Culture, Diversity & Wellbeing	Leadership & Viability	
11.00am - 12.00pm	Understanding and Supporting Young Children Living in Out-of-Home Care Dr Sarah Wise	Unlocking the Secrets of STEM Robyn Brown	Embedding the Victorian Child Safety Standards into Practice Katherine Levi	Embedding the QIP into Everyday Service Management Panel of ECEC Providers	
12.00pm = 1.00pm	Lunch in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer				
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Learning Environments and the NQS Heather Barnes OAM	Is Numeracy More Than Just Numbers? Jen Bowden & Ellen Corovic	Supporting Disadvantaged Families Nairn Walker	Leadership Lessons Learnt Jim Grant	
2.00pm – 2.15pm	Short Break				
2.15pm – 3.15pm	Strength Based Interventions to Develop a Growth Mindset in Children Chris Daicos	Using Child Oriented perspectives to Think About Young Children's Literacy Through Literature Karen McLean	Empower Children to Help Themselves, Their Friends and Their Family When Injured or in An Emergency Nataly Tormey	Leadership for Women: It's a State of Mind, Not a Job Title Julia May	
3.15pm - 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer				
3.45pm – 4.45pm	Navigating the Parent-Professional Partnership in Early Childhood Education and Care Warren Cann				
5.00pm - 7.00pm	Cocktail Event in Exhibition Hall				

Please note this program is subject to change.

Conference Program

Saturday 19 August 2017

8.30am - 9.15am	Registration & Exhibition Ope	Registration & Exhibition Open				
9.15am - 9.30am	Conference Welcome					
9.30am - 11.00am	Keynote Panel Discussion: What We Do Matters Heather Barnes OAM Louise Dorrat Prof Suzy Edwards Dr Anne Kennedy Paul Mondo Anthony Semann					
11.00am - 11.30am	Morning Tea in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer					
	Learning & Development	Literacy & Numeracy	Culture, Diversity & Wellbeing	Leadership & Viability		
11.30am - 12.30pm	What's Best for My Child? Building Parental Understanding of Quality ECEC Dr Anne Kennedy	Thinking About Digital Media and Popular-Culture in the Early Years: Towards an Understanding of Digital Play Prof Suzy Edwards	Engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families in ECEC: A Way of Being Carmel Zeidan	Owners Panel Hub: Key Issues Impacting the Early Childhood Sector Luci Palaghia & Sector Experts from the Australian Childcare Alliance Committee		
12.30pm - 1.30pm	Lunch in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer					
1.30pm – 2.30pm	Music & Storytelling; Rekindling Your Passion Louise Dorrat	The Word Hunt! Kavita Bali	Supporting the Inclusion of Young Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Education and Care Settings Kerry Staples	Happiness, Childcare and Achieving Financial Security Michael Sojka		
2.30pm - 3.00pm	Afternoon Tea in Exhibition Hall & Conference Hall Foyer					
3.00pm - 4.00pm	Keynote Address					
4.00pm – 4.30pm	Closing David Worland					

Please note this program is subject to change.



Keynote Speakers



Tim Longhurst Futurist

Tim Longhurst works with community and business leaders to identify opportunities and seize them. He combines the latest data, powerful case studies and entertaining anecdotes to bring possibilities to life. Tim's talent for strategy and passion for bringing out the best in others has led to him to partner with organisations including, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson, Cisco Systems, IKEA, IBM and Lendlease. Tim has been Director of Strategy of two organisations: the world's leading digital agency, Razorfish, and independent online campaigning organisation, GetUp!. Today he is head of the strategic foresight consultancy, Key Message.

Just What We Need! NQS QA 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3

Tim Longhurst works with small teams to identify and seize opportunities. In this session, he'll bring his trademark conversational style to discuss the trends that are changing the early childhood education and care sector and explore some of the opportunities for us and our organisations. Tim's taken an interest in what motivates our members and what life's like in our sector, and he's heading to the session equipped with tools and strategies that we can use both at the conference and beyond.



Warren Cann Parenting Research Centre

Warren is the Chief Executive Officer of the Parenting Research Centre, a national organisation that aims to improve outcomes for children by connecting research and practice in family support. Trained in clinical psychology, Warren has over 25 years of experience in designing, researching, implementing and teaching in the field of parenting support. He is also a founding Director of Australia's national parenting website, the Raising Children Network (www.raisingchildren.net.au).

You can find out more about the Centre at www.parentingrc.org.au and Warren on Twitter at @warrengcann

Navigating the Parent-Professional Partnership in Early Childhood Education and Care NQS QA 6.2.2

Parents are early childhood educators' most important partners in promoting the development and wellbeing of children. This presentation will provide an overview of contemporary understandings of the impact of parenting on children and the implications of research-based insights for working with parents.

What We Do Matters

The first five years of a child's life are understood as having a pivotal influence on long term outcomes. There is also a growing body of academic research that highlights the immense value for children in being able to access high quality early childhood education and care. Despite this, the early childhood education and care sector is often the least understood by parents, Government and stakeholders. As a result, the immense value of the work we undertake to improve the lives of the children and families in our care is often understated. But what we do really matters. How we capture, define and measure this value to parents and Government will be pivotal in both how the sector is

perceived and, as importantly, funded in the long term.

This interactive panel discussion will focus on the barriers and opportunities facing the sector in having what we do properly recognised for what it is - the single most important investment in the future of our children, community and the economy.

Participating in the discussion will be some of Australia's leading early childhood academics, consultants and practitioners – including Heather Barnes OAM, Louise Dorrat, Professor Suzy Edwards, Dr Anne Kennedy, Paul Mondo and Anthony Semann.



Heather Barnes OAM

Early Childhood Consultant

Heather Barnes is an early childhood consultant and works throughout Australia. She has taught in kindergartens, higher education and TAFE, worked for the National Childcare Accreditation Council, local government and Gowrie Victoria and is an enthusiastic advocate for quality outcomes for children. Her work as a consultant includes conference presentations, workshops, resource writing, and mentoring services towards further quality improvement. Heather facilitated the first Assessor Training, wrote and delivered modules for the 2012 Assessor Training and continues to provide further training for Authorised Officers in several states and territories.

She is a Life Member of Gowrie Victoria, a member of the Victorian Children's Council and was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in 2015 for service to early childhood education.

Also Presenting: **Learning Environments and the NQS** NQS QA 3.1.1, 3.1.3, 3.2.1, 3.2.2

We can't all have state-of-the-art buildings and outdoor spaces but positive outcomes for children depend on us making the most of what we have. This session will provide reminders about the expectations and vision of the NQS in relation to environments and provide you with inspiration to make small changes that will have big benefits!

WEBINAR: What Does Excellence Look Like? NOS 0A 7.2.1. 7.2.3

Under the National Quality Framework, the 'Excellent' rating is the highest rating an education and care service can achieve and can only be applied for if the services' current rating is Exceeding the National Quality Standard. This session will enable you to learn from and be inspired by three Victorian services that are examples of exemplary practice, innovation and creativity. Each service has their own strengths and each context is very different but they continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement.

The session will encourage you to reflect on what you might learn from these services and how your own service might aspire to be recognised as a service of excellence.



Louise Dorrat Early Childhood Consultant

Louise has a background in Children's Theatre and has taught the Dramatic Arts to Pre-service teachers for the past 7 years at Victoria University, Swinburne and the Institute of Koorie Education (IKE) at Deakin University. She has extensive experience in managing early year's services from Inclusion Support to Kindergarten and assisted in the set-up of the first regulated Victorian Bush Kinder.

She has been contracted by organisations such as Federal and State Governments. Children's Ground, ELAA, Child Australia and Gowrie to deliver training across Australia. Louise provides sessions that are at once engaging and entertaining.

Also Presenting: Music and Storytelling; Rekindle Your Passion NQS QA 1.1.5, 5.2.1

Music and storytelling are a fundamental part of life and have the capacity to transport children to different places to become someone or something else. The dramatic arts can be used to create an environment or mood to support young children to relax in this hurried world around them. Stories and chants can provide a predictable structure for routines and transitions making the day flow smoothly.

- Investigate beat and rhythm with children of all abilities
- Discover new ways of telling stories
- Discover simple and inclusive props and resources





Professor Suzy Edwards

Australian Catholic University

Professor Susan Edwards is the Director of the Early Childhood Futures research concentration in the Learning Sciences Institute of Australia (LSIA), Australian Catholic University. Professor Edwards commenced her career in early childhood education in Melbourne, Australia over twenty years ago beginning as a junior ballet school teacher before moving into kindergarten teaching, and tertiary education and research. Susan is committed to realising early learning opportunities for young children and their families. Her research interests include the role of playgroups in supporting children's play and development, young children's use of digital technologies and sustainability education in the early years.

Also Presenting: Thinking About Digital Media and Popular-Culture in The Early Years: Towards an Understanding of Digital Play NQS QA 1.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2

The effective implementation of digital media and popular-culture into play-based learning experiences for young children is a contemporary challenge facing many early childhood educators. Traditional approaches to integrating digital media and popularculture focus on using technologies and popular-culture artefacts in the classroom. While useful, these approaches do not always help educators think about children's technological interests and experiences in terms of play and play-based activity. An alternative perspective considers how young children's engagements with digital media and popular culture may be understood by educators as a new form of 'digital' play that can be used to foster learning experiences and outcomes for young children. What constitutes digital play is an emerging area of research and investigation.

WEBINAR: Play Based Learning vs Intentional Teaching

Play-based learning is a cornerstone of early childhood education provision. Play provides opportunities for young children to explore ideas, experiment with materials and express new understandings. Play can be solitarily, quiet and reflective. Play can also be social, active and engaging. While play is frequently understood as the basis for learning in early childhood education, this is not always the situation in all settings. Cultural variations in learning and play suggest that social interactions and observational learning also create powerful pedagogical learning environments for young children. International and national research highlights the value of sustained and reflective interactions between children and educators in promoting children's learning. Increasingly, the notion of quality in play-based pedagogy invites educators to integrate traditional beliefs about play with new insights into the role of social interactions, modelling and relationships in young children's learning.

Overseas, the movement towards toward quality play-based pedagogy reflects debate and policy initiatives captured by the notion of intentional teaching. In Australia, the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) makes explicit reference to intentional teaching. Intentional teaching arguably engages educators and children in shared thinking and problem solving to build young children's learning outcomes. However, the pedagogical relationship between play-based learning and intentional teaching remains difficult to conceptualise. This is because the value placed on the exploratory potential of play-based learning can appear to be at odds with the role of intentional teaching in promoting knowledge development. This presentation reaches beyond binary constructs of play and intentional teaching, and invites consideration of a new Pedagogical Play-framework for inspiring pedagogical and curriculum innovative in the early years.



Dr Anne Kennedy, Consultant Early Childhood Consultant

Dr Anne Kennedy works as consultant, trainer, writer, advocate and researcher in early childhood education and care. Anne was a member of the Charles Sturt University writing team that developed Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia (2009).

Anne has been involved in co-writing many resources for educators including eight Practice Guides for the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework. In 2012 Anne was awarded the Barbara Creaser Memorial award by Early Childhood Australia for her outstanding contribution to the early childhood sector.

Also Presenting: What's Best for My Child? Building Parental Understanding of **Quality ECEC** NQS QA 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3

Parents are often anxious about 'doing the best for their children'. Quality early education and care is about doing the best for children in partnership with educators. This session will look at practical ways to support parents gaining a clearer understanding of what we mean by quality education and care and how it supports their children's learning, development and wellbeing.



Anthony Semann Semann & Slattery

Anthony Semann is one of the Directors and founders at Semann & Slattery, with 15 years' work as a researcher, consultant and manager with a broad range of government, non-government and private organisations. His skills and expertise have seen him work with organisations across Australia and overseas including Columbia University (New York) as well as in France and New Zealand.

Anthony holds expert knowledge in both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies. He is a much sought after facilitator and has delivered over 90 opening addresses at conferences, 150 conference papers and 1,000 professional development programs. Anthony has an exceptional capacity to challenge organisations and people to reflect on how their approaches to communication, leadership, diversity, values, relationships and workplace culture affect their services, businesses and the community.

Anthony is currently completing a PhD at Macquarie University regarding the nexus between leadership and courage.



Kavita Bali Early Childhood Consultant

Kavita Bali is an expert at applying practical leadership and educational theories into a diverse range of Early Childhood educational settings and practices. Having held a vast array of positions in the Early Childhood sector, Kavita has sound regulatory understanding and hands on practical skills.

A graduate in Psychology and Economics with a Masters in English and Education and Training, as well as legal experience, Kavita combines all her skills and knowledge to construct a very effective instrument of change and support for the Early childhood sector. In her role as an Early Childhood Consultant, Facilitator and Mentor she focuses on transforming Australian Early Childhood educational settings by delivering effective programs and services which combine pedagogical theories, educational leadership and effective change and team management principles to clients who seek long term value.

The Word Hunt! NQS QA 1.1.2, 5.1.2, 5.1.3

Children and Educators who come from diverse backgrounds and speak different languages are appearing in all types of Early Childhood services and learning settings in growing numbers. Even the most experienced educators and teachers can feel a bit unsure about meeting the unique needs of children from different language backgrounds and similarly when they have an educator from a non-English speaking background.

This session will focus on strategies you can adopt so you feel confident that you know how language develops and how cultural differences can come into play: from welcoming children and educators from diverse cultural backgrounds and engaging them to participate in your program to creating a nurturing community of learners and supporting their home language while fostering English acquisition.



Jen Bowden Mathematical Association of Victoria

Jen is Maths Education Consultants for the Mathematical Association of Victoria. Together with her co-presenter Ellen Corovic, Jen enjoys working in education settings to build teacher capacity around their pedagogy, practice and planning of mathematics into the curriculum. Jen and Ellen enjoy using quality resources and picture books to stimulate teachers in planning engaging lessons with a working mathematically approach. Each have over 12 years' experience as primary school teachers and over eight years' experience working as consultants for the MAV. They have been immersed in, and have enjoyed the wonderful world of early childhood education as between them they are mothers to six children under the age of 9.

Is Numeracy Is More Than Just Numbers? Co-presented with Ellen Corovic NQS QA 1.1.1, 1.2.3

In their workshop, Jen and Ellen will explore the wonderful world of mathematics in early years' settings. Be prepared to engage in a variety of hands-on activities that you will be able to use in your planning and rooms. Picture books and quality resources will inspire you to see that mathematics is everywhere and that numeracy is more than just numbers!



Robyn Brown

Customised Training

Robyn Brown is a kindergarten educator with extensive experience in the early childhood sector. She has worked in sessional kindergartens and as the Early Learning Program Director for children with additional needs. Throughout her career, Robyn has also worked in the TAFE and VET sector with Federation University, Victoria University and Gowrie Victoria; training and assessing students completing their qualifications in Certificate III, Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Children's Services; Certificate IV and Diploma in School Age Education and Care. Robyn has mentored Bachelor of Education students as they facilitated play groups for families, incorporating the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework into their planning and implementation of experiences.

Robyn also mentored new graduates in sessional kindergarten and long day care programs under the Professional Mentoring Program funded by (then) DEECD. Robyn is passionate about the provision of high quality programs to ensure optimum learning outcomes for young children.

Unlocking the Secrets of STEM NQS QA 1.2.2

Children are natural explorers and discoverers, who ask questions and are instinctively curious. The concepts which make up STEM are an avenue for children to investigate, discover, observe and make sense of the world and the things within it. Early childhood educators are in the prime position to promote these natural attributes of children, and to introduce them to these great stories that are Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics!

This session will explore each particular aspect of STEM. There will be reflection about how the early childhood educator can incorporate STEM into their programming, and how STEM links to the Early Years Learning Framework, Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework and the National Quality Standards. Current thinking and research on how children learn, will underpin the key aspects of this presentation. There will be examples of STEM experiences for all age groups, and discussion about how educators can set up environments to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in their service.



Ellen Corovic

Mathematical Association of Victoria

Ellen is Maths Education Consultants for the Mathematical Association of Victoria. Together with her co-presenter Jen Bowden, Ellen enjoys working in education settings to build teacher capacity around their pedagogy, practice and planning of mathematics into the curriculum. Jen and Ellen enjoy using quality resources and picture books to stimulate teachers in planning engaging lessons with a working mathematically approach. Each have over 12 years' experience as primary school teachers and over eight years' experience working as consultants for the MAV. They have been immersed in, and have enjoyed the wonderful world of early childhood education as between them they are mothers to six children under the age of 9.

Is Numeracy Is More Than Just Numbers? Co-presented with **Jen Bowden** NQS QA 1.1.1, 1.2.3

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Chris Daicos

Training and Development Consultant

Chris Daicos is a trained teacher and Social Worker with extensive experience in working directly with children and adolescents in schools. Her work has involved counselling students and their parents individually and in-groups. She has facilitated many successful professional development sessions for teachers and parents on a range of topics. She has worked with staff in both the private and public sector to; develop leadership qualities, challenge and develop performance cultures, enhance team functioning and examine/ address staff morale. Chris has also developed capacity in staff through coaching.

As a Training and Development Consultant, providing consultancy to a wide range of private and public sector organisations. She has been actively involved in the tertiary sector, teaching students in the Masters of Social Work, Masters of Teaching and the Masters of Education (Student Well Being) at Melbourne University, Victoria University and Deakin University.

Chris holds a Master of Applied Positive Psychology, Diploma of Teaching (Primary), Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Social Work and a Fellowship of The Australian Council for Education Leaders (FACEL, Victoria 2012).

Papers Presented at Numerous Conferences Including:

- Australian Child Care Alliance 2015 (Key Note)
- Inaugural Positive Education Conference 2015
- International Symposium for Coaching and Positive Psychology in Education 2016

Strength Based Interventions to Develop A Growth Mindset in Children NQS QA 1.1.1, 1.2.3

Focusing on your children's strengths, positive qualities and future potential - rather than what they don't do well - enables them to see the best in themselves and work toward becoming better.

Using Strengths has evolved from the field of Positive Psychology; the scientific study of human flourishing and optimal functioning. It has also been defined as the study of the strengths and virtues that enable individuals, communities and organisations to thrive.

Incorporating Strengths into practice endeavours to explore how teachers and carers can unlock children's potential and help them flourish by identifying and responding to their strengths and qualities. Character strengths are inner strengths that are morally valued, like courage and kindness, which help children address life challenges and live a better life. A child's character strengths make them who they are and when they use their top (or signature) strengths they feel energised and motivated and are using the best of themselves. Using their signature strengths, help build children's self-esteem, competence, resilience and their wellbeing can grow over time. By connecting children with their innate strengths and developing them, parents help them feel more satisfied with their life and themselves. Character strength building helps create positive emotional and mental well-being and it mitigates the risk of anxiety and depression in later years.

By encouraging children to identify, embrace and exercise character strengths, teachers and carers can help children create lives filled with happiness and fulfilment. Isn't this the best gift we can give a child?



Linda Franco Child Wise

Linda Franco is the Community Training Manager at Child Wise. She has a passion for ensuring children's rights to physical and emotional safety are protected in order to provide them with the best possible start in life.

Linda is a registered psychologist and a dedicated community sector professional with over 20 years experience across a range of community sector roles. She is a confident and experienced trainer with extensive experience liaising effectively with community organisations to promote engagement and training outcomes.

Linda has provided policy advice, training and ongoing support to organisations to strengthen their efforts to protect children and young people. These have included YMCA, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Australian Defence Force Cadets.

Linda was also instrumental in the research, design and development of the ACCYO Safequarding Children Program, including developing the innovative training materials and online training.

WEBINAR: Understanding Child Abuse and How to Respond

Child Wise works in partnership with organisations to provide expertise and support to create and maintain child safe environments. Adapted from Child Wise's award winning programs, and supplemented by evidence from national and international research, this webinar will provide greater awareness and understanding of child abuse.

The topics covered will include the nature and prevalence of child abuse, the indicators of child abuse, prevention and risk management, and how to respond to concerns or disclosures of abuse. The webinar will inform individuals of their professional duty of care responsibilities, and equip them with vital knowledge to help keep children in their care safe from harm.





Jim Grant **Dattner Grant**

Jim Grant is a founding partner of Dattner Grant with extensive experience at the most senior levels of international business and as a member of the Executive Teams of several major corporations before co-founding Dattner Grant.

A former secondary teacher, Jim's outspoken commitment to the voice of teachers and the importance of education soon saw him establish a career in the union movement. He was pivotal in the founding of the Teachers Federation of Victoria in 1984 and became the federation's inaugural head. He represented Australian teachers at four World Congresses.

Jim is known for his strategic thinking capacity, extensive knowledge of international human resource practices, deep understanding of leadership and how organisations really tick. He has an uncanny pragmatic ability to manage complex organisational change processes and he merges a creative flair with a deep intellectual understanding of the work he does.

His areas of specialty include working with senior executive teams on a wide range of matters, mentoring and coaching executives, and designing and facilitating leadership development.

Leadership Lessons Learnt NQS QA 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3

- The privilege of leading
- Intention is not the problem
- Have you got what it takes to have the fire in the belly to lead?
- Leading warts and all & with courage
- Accountability It's up to me!
- The power of self-actualising
- Homeward bound the journey of a lifetime





Katherine Levi Child Wise

Katherine has a long-standing commitment to social justice and is a strong advocate for the rights of children and young people. She has more than 25 years of experience as a social worker and many years in senior leadership positions.

In October 2016, Katherine joined Child Wise as the Chief Executive Officer, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience from her former role as CEO of the Australian Council for Children and Youth Organisations (ACCYO). During her time at ACCYO, Katherine created a world first training and accreditation system to assist organisations to protect children in their care. The online Safeguarding Children training program she developed has been used extensively by government and non-government agencies. Prior to her role with ACCYO, Katherine was the CEO of the youth mentoring program Big Brothers Big Sisters Melbourne.

Katherine has a Masters in Social Work, a Bachelor of Social Work and is currently completing her PhD in Social Work at Melbourne University.

Embedding the Victorian Child Safety Standards into Practice NQS QA 2.3.4

In 2016 the Victorian Government legislated Child Safe Standards designed to protect children in the care of organisations. This session will provide early childhood educators with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of their new responsibilities in relation to child protection. Participants will gain insight into the rationale for the new legislation as well as the purpose, scope and application of the new Standards. Additionally, this session will raise awareness about new criminal legislation relating to child protection in Victoria.

Practical examples will be given in relation to how to successfully create a child safe culture. Case studies will be presented and the audience will have an opportunity for questions and answers.





Julia May Global Women's Project, Dattner Grant

Julia May is the head of the global women's project for Dattner Grant and brings a rich experience in storytelling, coaching, communications and strategy. Julia manages, coaches and facilitates for Compass, a national development and leadership program for women, and oversees Dattner Grant's growing suite of services aimed at equipping women with the skills to be better able to shape the world around them. She's also on the leadership team of Homeward Bound, an international leadership initiative for women which culminates in a 20-day intensive in Antarctica. Over 12 years as a journalist, including five years as Fairfax's London correspondent, Julia gained a deep understanding of the power of storytelling to both empower and disempower. A passion for helping women articulate their purpose and reframe their vision led Julia to retrain as a life coach. She has a deep ability to listen, to distill ideas, to think creatively and strategically, and, as a mother of two small girls, has an abiding sense of the need to take a different approach to leadership in order to secure our future. Also passionate about creativity, her first novel is in the works.

Leadership for Women: It's a State of Mind, Not a Job Title NQS QA 7.2.2

Julia May runs Compass, a national development and leadership program for women, which challenges women from all walks of life to know themselves better in order to lead at home, at work and in the wider world. Julia has a wide experience working with women in education and the childcare sector. In this presentation she will challenge traditional notions of leadership to inspire and empower senior decision-makers and individual women to see how self-knowledge and clarity of purpose can make a difference in every setting: from the tiniest exchange with a child to making important life or business decisions. She'll also share thrills, spills and key lessons as one of the leaders of Homeward Bound, the world's largest all-women expedition to Antarctica, which took 76 women to Antarctica for 3 weeks last December with the aim of supporting them to discover their strongest, most courageous selves.



Karen McLean

Learning Sciences Institute of Australia, Australian Catholic University

Dr Karen McLean is a researcher in the Early Childhood Futures research concentration in the Learning Sciences Institute of Australia (LSIA), Australian Catholic University. Dr McLean commenced her career in primary and early years' education in regional Victoria. She has been working in early childhood education in tertiary education for over 10 years. Karen's research uses sociocultural erspectives to understand learning for contemporary times. Her current research is directed towards Australian playgroup provision. Karen's research interests encompass children and adults' learning with a focus on literacy, technology and play-based learning.

Using Child Oriented Perspectives to Think About Young Children's Literacy Through Literature

Child orientated perspectives of young children's learning focus on the child as a learner and active participant in learning. This requires moving beyond traditional ways of thinking about the role of adult-child relationships in young children's learning. This session considers child oriented perspectives for children's literacy learning through literature in contemporary times. It uses the concept of dual socialisation to consider how adult-child relationships and interactions can provide enriched experiences and enabling contexts for young children's literacy learning through literature. This presentation draws on playgroup research to illustrate child orientated perspectives for fostering children's literacy learning through literature in child care.



Luci Palaghia Ferrier Hodgson

Luci Palaghia is a Partner at Ferrier Hodgson, one of Australia's largest specialist performance improvement, turnaround and advisory firms.

Luci is a corporate restructuring and performance improvement specialist, dedicated to helping businesses extract more value from their assets so that they can achieve greater returns or simply have the opportunity for a fresh start. Her analytical approach and capacity to deliver quality results in every circumstance has allowed Luci to lead significant turnaround and recovery projects in a variety of industries.

Luci's experience in the childcare sector stems from 2008 when she was called in to help manage and investigate the collapse of the ABC learning centres. Ever since, Luci has remained active in childcare and education, advising business operators on strategy, operational improvement, valuation and exit strategies.

Owners Panel Hub

Key Issues Impacting the Early Childhood Sector NQS QA 7.1.1, 7.1.4, 7.1.5

This interactive panel discussion is geared to helping Service Operators and Directors, as well as key stakeholders, understand the key issues impacting the early childhood education and care sector. Just some of the topics to be covered include:

- Significant legislative and policy developments
- Sector viability in light of massive expansion
- Affordability and accessibility for parents
- Marketing in a fragmented market
- The role of technology in the sector
- Plus more

Featuring a panel of highly skilled and experienced Service Operators from the Australian Childcare Alliance National Executive, the session will encourage audience input and participation. Luci Palaghia, a partner at Ferrier Hodgson, will facilitate discussion on the day.





Allan Preiss McArthur

Education is in Allan's DNA. As a teacher, consultant or senior executive, he has spent his entire workinglife as an educator in some shape or form. He is passionate in his belief that organisations, including childcare centres, should be places that enhance the lives of those who work in them, and that the combination of teamwork and strong leadership will always deliver both personal and organisational improvement. Allan is also both an agent and champion of change, and has consulted to both the public and private sectors in Australia and overseas in the areas of change management, leadership and team effectiveness.

Always in demand as a commentator and subject matter expert, Allan presented at the RST World Congress of the Society for Organisational Learning in Helsinki and is frequently quoted in media articles.

WEBINAR: Encouraging and Facilitating Career Development NQS QA 7.2.2

What does career development look like when we now work in very flat organisations? In our early childhood centres there are a limited number of director and room leader roles. But that doesn't mean there is no scope for career development – it just means we need to think about it differently.

We need to see sideways movement in a centre as form of career progression and we must see the deepening of our professional knowledge and skill as furthering our careers. Whilst each centre has a responsibility to provide systems and processes to encourage and facilitate career development each educator must steer their own careers.

In this webinar we will look at the systems and processes that centres should implement with their educators and will also look at some tools that educators can use to steer their careers and deepen and broaden their professional knowledge and skills.





Michael Sojka Rose Partners

Michael is a fellow of CPA Australia, first admitted in 1978 and became a partner of Rose Partners in 1982. Michael has a wealth of current knowledge of the accounting industry but he also has a treasure chest of experience that he is passionate about sharing with his clients. As the Managing Partner of Rose Partners Michael is responsible for the delivery of "best practice" to clients.

With impeccable knowledge of the traditional aspects of accounting and business management Michael also has expertise in actively listening to his clients. His ability to listen carefully is then matched with the exceptional skill of being able to "think outside the square". Drawing on an extended network of experts, impeccable relationships with the banks and his own experience means that Michael is able to provide a carefully considered range of solutions or options to his clients. "Some men dream of worthy accomplishments, while others stay awake and do them!" This has been Michael's creed since he began his career.

Happiness, Childcare and Achieving Financial Security

Achieving your financial future needs to be part of your life and lifestyle plan. Rose Partners will share their experiences of how to plan for financial success as well as how to go from a Good to a Great Childcare Centre.



Kerry Staples

School of Education, Western Sydney University

Kerry managed both inclusive early childhood education and care settings and specialist intervention services prior to working at Western Sydney University. Her research and teaching focus on enhancing inclusion of children with disabilities, collaboration, familycentred practices and the role of early childhood educators as community leaders. Kerry is the recipient of the 2015 Jean Denton Memorial Scholarship.

Supporting the Inclusion of Young Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood **Education and Care Settings** NQS QA 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.5, 1.2.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.3, 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 6.3.3

To have a sense of belonging to our friendship group, our neighbourhood, our community is, without doubt, vitally important for all of us and no less so for children with disabilities and their families. Indeed, it is the work of early childhood educators to foster belonging, being and becoming for all children. By welcoming children with diverse abilities and needs, educators have the opportunity to not only advocate for the rights of children with disabilities but also to promote friendships within the local community that may well last a lifetime. However, supporting inclusion can be complex and often daunting despite our commitment to social justice.

This session will explore how we can best welcome families and better support eguitable access and meaningful participation to ensure the authentic inclusion of children with diverse abilities.



Nataly Tormey WONDERWOMAN Children

Nataly Tormey founded the community education organisation WONDERWOMAN Children which is dedicated to providing first aid and safety information and resources to children, parents, carers and educators. It is their vision that everyone is empowered by first aid education to support their wellbeing physically, mentally and socially. Whether it be an educator, parent or carer they aim to make sure that each child is surrounded by people who have knowledge of what to do in emergency. It is their belief that by empowering educators that in turn we can improve children's environments.

WONDERWOMAN Children are also the only organisation in Australia to provide educators with the opportunity to learn the skills and access educational resources to implement first aid education that meets the Early Years Learning Framework into your centres children's educational program. This program addresses physical skills such as calling 000 and recovery position as well as the emotional component including emotional resilience to cope with stressful situations.

Empower Children to Help Themselves, Their Friends and Their Family When Injured or in An Emergency NQS QA 2.1.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.3

Nataly will provide you with some teaching tools and activities from the WONDERWOMAN Children program to implement in your educational planning for children in your centre. She will provide you with some handy hints in teaching children how to seek help when they or their friends are injured or when a family member needs assistance. As part of this discussion we will also address emotional resilience in children, their capacity to deal with stressful situations and how to address difficult conversations about injury, calling for help and helping people when in need. All content has been designed specifically for early learning environments and adapting information and delivering education suitable for children under 5 years of age.





Nairn Walker Social Solutions

Having spent well over two decades as a professional educator and the past ten years as a mother, Nairn Walker is passionate about children and the well-being of their parents, families and communities. Committed to facilitating and celebrating social, emotional and spiritual health at each of these levels, she has engaged with Dr Ruby Payne's Understanding Economic Diversity for almost twenty years since first being introduced to the material in her role as a Program and Campus Manager for disadvantaged and challenging youth and their families in Northern Tasmania in 1998. To this end, Nairn has now worked across Australia, New Zealand, the US and the UK with over one hundred thousand professionals to raise awareness, understanding and outcomes through sharing insights and strategies that make a difference.

Nairn taught Equity and Social Justice at the University of Tasmania (School of Education) for several years, adores being Mum to Marley (10), Daisy (6) and Hamish (4), and loves her role as a trainer and consultant with Social Solutions. She is truly committed to their mission - Educating for a positive now.

Supporting Disadvantaged Families NQS QA 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3, 6.3.4

Children behind in their milestones? Parents who use stand-over tactics, or don't follow through on their promises? Families that appear to have priorities that don't make sense, or don't seem to want to engage? Many of the frustrations typically experienced by practitioners in the Early Child Care Sector such as these can often be directly attributed to the minimal resource base from which some families operate. The impact of economic class has a profound influence on the behaviours and attitudes of both parents and their children due to resources and the oftenunconscious transfer of hidden rules. The more we understand these dynamics, the easier it can be for us to turn frustration and failure into powerful partnerships of mutual respect that support everyone to learn and grow.





Dr Sarah Wise Berry Street Childhood Institute

Dr Sarah Wise is a developmental researcher with many years of research, policy and service innovation experience covering a wide range of issues relating to children, parents and families. Her special interest areas are early childhood development, out-of-home care, local area responses and the development of social policy and practice with evidence.

Sarah completed her PhD through the Departments of Psychology and Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne on the topic of attachment and wellbeing among foster care children.

Sarah's first ongoing research position was at the Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), where she remained for 12 years, including eight years as a Principle Research Fellow leading the child development and parenting program area. Sarah's research has influenced policy and practice decision-making within the child and family service system and has been directly linked to program innovation and new resources to improve the educational outcomes of children and young people in foster care and residential care.

Sarah currently holds a joint appointment within the University of Melbourne's Department of Social Work and the Berry Street Childhood Institute as the inaugural Good Childhood Fellow, where she works to integrate academic research into social systems and programs designed to support vulnerable children.

Understanding and Supporting Young Children Living in Out-of-Home Care NQS QA 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.1.5

Children in out-of-home care are those for whom the state assumes parental responsibility because their birth parent/s are unable or unwilling to protect them. This session will provide an insight into the needs and vulnerabilities of children in out-of-home care and how early childhood education and care can help them overcome earlier adversity. Information on how to respond to identified needs and risks of children living at home with their birth parents will also be provided.





Carmel Zeidan

Children's Services Consultant

Carmel Zeidan is a children's services consultant and research author, with more than 30 years' experience working in a diverse range of settings and positions. With a passion for working closely with educators and services to create places for children that are engaging, nurturing and inspired; Carmel has helped services and educators explore and reflect on their capabilities to further develop practice and expertise.

With a second career in cooking and hospitality Carmel joins the two field to bring a multifaceted range of expertise and scope to her work. Her experience includes working directly with children, cooking and developing menus, service management, consultation and review, one on one, group and whole service review, coaching and mentoring, accredited workplace training and assessment, extensive workshop presentation, delivery and facilitation and work as a research author.

Carmel holds an Advanced Diploma of Children's Services, Diploma of Children's Services and the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

Engagement of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Families in ECEC; A Way of Being NQS QA 6.1.2, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3, 6.3.4

If forming connections is one of the biggest roles we have in our work with children and families; it would then be safe to say that creating authentic connections that value and acknowledge the capabilities and beliefs of others underpins our success as early childhood educators. To connect with others, we first need to explore our own beliefs, values and possible subconscious prejudices. With this in mind, this workshop will begin to unpack the meaning of cultural competence and connections. By exploring concepts such as; what is culture, who has it and can I support and understand someone's else's culture if I don't understand my own; we can begin to move from practice that may be tokenistic in nature, to authentically engage all families.

This workshop will begin the process of empowering you to recognise that engaging families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds is more than what you do or have available, it's a way of being.



Additional Information

Mobile App

For the 2017 Excellence in ECEC Conference Series. an app will be available to download in place of the printed Handbook. This app will be available for use on smartphones, iPads and tablets and will provide details on the conference and social program including room locations, speakers, sponsors & exhibitors.

Visit the ACA Victoria website for details on how to download the app.

https://vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference

We strongly recommend that you download the app to get the most out of the Excellence in ECEC Conference Series.

Venue

The venue for the 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Series and Exhibition is:

Crown Conference Centre 8 Whiteman Street Southbank, VIC 3006

Accommodation

Crown Promenade has been selected as the preferred hotel for the 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Series. This 4.5 star property is located immediately adjacent to Crown Conference Centre, the venue for the 2017 Conference. Crown Promenade is set within Melbourne's Southbank district, close to the city centre with its array of galleries, sporting venues and shopping areas. Special rates have been negotiated for you at Crown Promenade and there is a choice of King or Twin bedded rooms.

Standard - Room Only \$300.00 Standard – Buffet Breakfast at Mesh Restaurant \$330.00 Standard – 2 Buffet Breakfasts at Mesh Restaurant \$360.00

Please note: Accommodation rooms may be allocated as a combination of king and twin rooms based on availability at the time of booking.

To take advantage of these great rates call 03 9292 6389 and quote "2017 Australian Child Care Alliance Victoria" or email reservations.mcp@crownhotels.com.au



Registration Options 2017 Prices

ACAV Member Full Registration – Early Bird	*\$510.00
ACAV Member Full Registration	\$650.00
ACAV Member One Day Registration – Friday	\$355.00
ACAV member One Day Registration – Saturday	\$310.00
Non-Member Full Registration – Early Bird	*\$710.00
Non-Member Full Registration	\$850.00
Non-Member One Day Registration – Friday	\$455.00
Non-Member One Day Registration – Saturday	\$410.00

^{*}Early Bird Registration Closes: Thursday 13 April 2017 or when 200 registrations have been reached.

LDCPDP eligible, subject to compliance with guidelines and payment by 30 June 2017

Full Registration Includes:

- Access to the four (4) 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Webinars
- Access to the 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference on Friday 18 & Saturday 19 August 2017
- Conference Sessions on Friday & Saturday
- Access to the Exhibition on both days
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Friday & Saturday
- Cocktail Event on Friday

One Day Pass — Friday Includes:

- Access to the four (4) 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Webinars
- Access to the 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference on Friday 18 August 2017
- Conference Sessions on Friday
- Access to the Exhibition on Friday
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Friday
- Cocktail Event on Friday

One Day Pass - Saturday Includes:

- Access to the four (4) 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Webinars
- Access to the 2017 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference on Saturday 19 August 2017
- Conference Sessions on Saturday
- Access to the Exhibition on Saturday
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Saturday

Cancellation Policy:

- All cancellations and changes to registrations must be made via the on-line registration page
- Confirmed registrants who fail to notify Wise Connections of cancellation in advance forfeit all fees paid
- Cancellations made up until COB on 28 April 2017 will receive a refund less a \$100 administration fee
- Cancellations made on or after 29 April 2017 will receive no refund
- Delegate substitutions, from the same organisation, may be made prior to COB 14 July 2017 via the on-line registration page
- Delegate substitutions after 14 July 2017 must be made emailing Wise Connections and will incur a \$25 administration fee per change
- Amendments to conference registrations after 28 July 2017 will not be accepted
- Amendments to registrations cannot be accepted after 28 July 2017

Personal Insurance

Participants shall be regarded in every aspect as carrying their own risk for loss or injury to person or property including baggage, during the conference. We strongly recommend that at the time of booking your travel you take out a travel insurance policy of your choice. The organisers are in no way responsible for any claims concerning insurance.

Disclaimer

ACAV acts as the organiser only of these activities and does not accept responsibility for any omission on the part of the service providers. No liability is accepted for any inaccuracy, delay, damage, death, or personal injury. All information provided is correct at time of printing. We reserve the right to change any services, product specifications and availability at any time. All information supersedes all previous publications.

Privacy Statement

Your name, organisation and email will be published on the delegate list, which is provided to exhibitors and sponsors.

Please contact Wise Connections if you do not want your details shared.

To Register go to:

www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference











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