



# ACA VICTORIA EXCELLENCE IN ECEC CONFERENCE

17 & 18 AUGUST  
• 2018 •



**Registration Brochure**

# 2018 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference Registration Brochure

17 & 18 August 2018, Crown Conference Centre  
8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Melbourne

## Welcome to our 2018 Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care Conference



On behalf of the Australian Childcare Alliance Victoria (ACA Victoria), it is my privilege to welcome you to our 2018 Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care Conference. Our vision is a future where every child in Victoria has access to high quality, affordable and sustainable early childhood education and care. We are deeply passionate about supporting our members and the sector more broadly to achieve this vision. One way we do this is through the delivery of our annual Conference, featuring the highest quality cutting edge topics from Australia's most respected Early Childhood Education experts. This year's event focuses very heavily on further raising the bar for quality in the sector by encouraging reflective practice.

A study of Early Childhood Education and Care across 20 countries found that improvements in children's long-term outcomes are achievable for all children when early learning experiences are high quality (OECD, 2006). Reflective practice is a key feature of high quality early childhood education and care settings. Reflective practice allows early childhood professionals to develop a critical understanding of their own practice, and continually develop the necessary skills, knowledge and approaches to achieve the best outcomes for children. Our 2018 Conference targets reflective practice in three key areas linked closely to the EYLF, VEYLF and National Quality Standard:

- 1** Service leadership and viability
- 2** Educational program and practice
- 3** Partnerships and the physical environment

Aside from the education program, our 2018 Conference will again feature exhibitions from the sector's leading product and service suppliers, including educational resources, training organisations and technology providers. We will continue to lead the sector forward with our event App connecting delegates, speakers and exhibitors, allowing you to get event more from the event. I look forward to meeting you all at the event!



Mr Paul Mondo  
President – ACA National  
President – ACA Victoria

## 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

- 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



# Conference Program

## Friday 17 August 2018

9.00am - 9.30am	<b>Conference Welcome</b> <b>Acknowledgement of Country &amp; President's Welcome</b> <i>Paul Mondo</i>		
9.30am - 10.30am	<b>Keynote: Boosting positivity in your team</b> <i>Dr Justin Coulson, Happy Families</i> Using the latest, evidence-based science of positive psychology, Justin, one of Australia's leading wellbeing and relationships experts, will show how easy it can be to take our own lives to the next level - by elevating those around us. Ideal for anyone who works in (or lives in) a relationships based role.		
10.30am - 11.00am	<b>Morning Tea</b>		
	<b>Leadership &amp; Viability</b>	<b>Educational Program &amp; Practice</b>	<b>Partnerships &amp; Physical Environment</b>
11.00am - 12.00pm	<b>The economy vs ECEC</b> <i>Craig James, CommSec</i> Craig James, a regular TV special guest and contributor to print and online media, will turn his economist's gaze to the ECEC sector, as he provides an expert overview of the state of the Australian economy. <b>QA7</b>	<b>Curriculum – language and literacy</b> <i>Kim Davis, Astute Early Years Specialists</i> "But they're just playing!" This session will provide a definition of language and literacy development in the early years and a framework for practice in emergent, play based language and literacy programs; explore strategies to scaffold and enhance language and literacy opportunities and discuss how we communicate language and literacy development to families. <b>QA1, QA6, QA7</b>	<b>Professional conversations with families - the good, the bad and the ugly</b> <i>Heather Barnes OAM, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Using scenarios and examples to illustrate the importance of sensitively responding to families' conversations and communicating information to them in professional ways that help the family understand their child's learning and development as well as helping the families in their parenting role. <b>QA1, QA6</b>
12.00pm - 1.00pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
1.00pm - 2.00pm	<b>What's happening to our sector?</b> <i>Panel discussion: Paul Mondo &amp; panellists</i> ACA President and CEO will discuss key issues impacting the early childhood sector, along with a panel of experts who will share their unique insights and experiences. <b>QA7</b>	<b>Understanding the why and ensuring the how of safe sleep</b> <i>Cindy Davenport, Safe Sleep Space</i> Settling one child at home is one thing; settling multiple children in an ECEC setting is quite another! Sleep expert Cindy Davenport will provide you with effective settling strategies, underpinned by evidence, to help you day to day. <b>QA2, QA5</b>	<b>Working with children from vulnerable backgrounds</b> <i>Andrew Alford, McArthur</i> How to work and engage with children and families from vulnerable backgrounds, including special needs, disabilities and diverse backgrounds, recognised by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as being most at risk. How to have difficult conversations about child safety, to empower children and give them a voice. <b>QA2, QA5, QA6</b>
2.00pm - 2.15pm	<b>Short Break</b>		
2.15pm - 3.15pm	<b>How to separate yourself from the pack!</b> <i>Keith Collins, Action Victoria</i> In the previous two sessions, you've heard about challenges to the sector – now Keith will help you plan your strategy to thrive in this environment! <b>QA7</b>	<b>Your QIP moving forward</b> <i>Heather Barnes OAM, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Heather will ensure you are on the right track in reviewing your QIP in the context of the revised NQS. <b>QA7</b>	<b>Sustainability beyond the worm farm</b> <i>Nicole Talarico, Talarico Consulting</i> Let Nicole share with you her passion for embedding sustainable practices in your service operations and supporting your children to become environmentally responsible. Take away practical ideas to use straight away. <b>QA3</b>
3.15pm - 3.45pm	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>		
3.45pm - 4.45pm	<b>Keynote: How taming your inner critic can be the key to increasing your leadership potential</b> <i>Fabian Dattner, Dattner Grant</i> Is your inner critic stopping you from achieving your leadership potential? Taming your inner critic is pivotal to stepping up, speaking up and being noticed. Fabian will help you to understand not only the importance of overcoming your negative self-talk, but also how to do it. Leave this session inspired to make changes that will impact not only your well-being, but also the well-being of those around you. <b>QA1</b>		

Please note this program is subject to change.

# Conference Program

## Saturday 18 August 2018

9.00am - 9.30am	Conference Welcome		
9.30am - 10.30am	<b>Keynote: What can I apply from best practice early childhood education and care from across the world?</b> <i>Prof Ann Farrell, Queensland University of Technology</i> Sharing her expertise of learnings from working internationally, including China, Hong Kong, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. <b>QA1</b>		
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea		
	Leadership & Viability	Educational Program & Practice	Partnerships & Physical Environment
11.00am - 12.00pm	<b>Securely managing your families' data and complying with record keeping requirements</b> <i>Cecelia Irvine-So &amp; Catherine Burkhalter, Moores</i> Cecelia and Catherine will show you the safe path through the ever-expanding mine-field of data security and record-keeping requirements. <b>QA7</b>	<b>Reflective practice, considerations, knowledge and know how: How do you practise reflection?</b> <i>Carmel Zeidan, Children's Services Consultant</i> "Yes, we practise reflection. No, we don't have time for it. We can't, because we can't all get together. It's too hard with the children around. Yes, I think we do? We do, but don't do it well. I'm not sure? Yes, but it's just like evaluation so we just do that now." If this sounds at all like you, join Carmel to learn more about how to do reflective practice well. <b>QA1</b>	<b>The pulse of their future lives: Children connecting and contributing to their communities</b> <i>Catharine Hydon, Hydon Consulting</i> Connecting children with their community and supporting them to contribute speaks to a belief that we are fundamentally interconnected and recognises an image of the child as citizen with the right to active participation in the world in which they live. As educators create partnerships with community, we enable children to look through the 'many doors' and not only understand the 'pulse of their future lives' but learn that their ideas can shape the here and now. <b>QA1, QA6</b>
12.00pm - 1.00pm	Lunch		
1.00pm - 2.00pm	<b>Lessons learnt: Preparing for Assessment and Rating</b> <i>Panel Discussion: Madeleine Smith DET &amp; panellists</i> In a conversational and interactive session, Madeleine Smith and selected ACAV members will discuss the highs and lows of the assessment process and how Approved Providers and key staff can best prepare for the (often) dreaded "A & R" process! <b>QA7</b>	<b>Assessment and Rating for educators – how to articulate your purpose when the department comes to visit</b> <i>Louise Dorrat, Early Childhood Education and Training Consultant</i> Louise will empower educators to feel confident with articulating what they do and why during an assessment visit. <b>QA4, QA7</b>	<b>Transition to school</b> <i>TBC, Early Learning Unit, Department of Education and Training</i> Gain clearer ideas on how to facilitate transition to school in a proactive and positive manner; feel comfortable in your professionalism when dealing with schools. <b>QA5, QA6</b>
2.00pm - 2.15pm	Short Break		
2.15pm - 3.15pm	<b>Managing your HR systems for a quality service</b> <i>Nick Tindley, FCB Group</i> Nick's presentation will guide you towards current best practice in HR management, using time and cost saving approaches, highlighting the importance of minimising errors and associated risks to both staff well-being and service operation by efficiently documenting staff management outcomes. <b>QA7</b>	<b>Intentional teaching: More than justifying what you do</b> <i>Anthony Semann, Semann &amp; Slatter</i> Anthony will challenge long held assumptions about intentionality and leave you inspired to reconsider the underlying justifications for teaching content. <b>QA1, QA4</b>	<b>Creating sustainable and engaging learning environments</b> <i>Karen Glancy, Early Childhood Pickers</i> Join Karen to learn some great ways to ensure your outdoor and indoor spaces engage all children in quality experiences and support children to become environmentally responsible and show respect for the environment. <b>QA3</b>
3.15pm - 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea		
3.45pm - 4.45pm	<b>Keynote: The great early childhood debate: Play based pedagogy - what would the children know?</b> <i>Facilitated by Dr Anne Kennedy with Madame Zelda &amp; Anthony Semann</i> Children should be active participants and decision makers in their own learning – but how far do you go with that in planning your curriculum? Join us for a light-hearted but informative look at how to balance your professional judgement with children's agency!		
4.45pm - 5.00pm	<b>Conference Closing</b> <i>ACA Victoria CEO</i>		

Please note this program is subject to change.

## Keynote Speakers



### **Dr Justin Coulson** Happy Families

Dr Justin Coulson is one of Australia's most respected relationships speakers, authors, and researchers.

Obsessed with what makes relationships flourish, Justin has spoken to tens of thousands of people about relationships in leadership, education and especially in family life.

Justin is the author of two best-selling books: *21 Days to a Happier Family*, and *9 Ways to a Resilient Child*, as well as numerous empirical book chapters and peer-reviewed journal articles.

Justin has worked with The Commonwealth Bank, American Express, the Office of the Children's E-safety Commissioner, The Federal Government's Department of Social Services, Life Education, and several hundred schools.

Justin is an Honorary Fellow at the Centre for Positive Psychology at the University of Melbourne's Graduate School of Education, and a Senior Associate at the Positive Psychology Institute.

In addition, Dr Coulson writes a weekly parenting advice column for Sydney's Daily Telegraph, appears regularly on The TODAY show and he is the parenting expert at [kidspot.com.au](http://kidspot.com.au) – Australia's #1 parenting website.

Most importantly, Justin is an expert in wrestling (his) children, reading Dr Suess, sliding down steep hills on cardboard boxes, and teaching his children to ride bikes. He and his wife Kylie are the parents of six children.

**Boosting positivity in your team**



### **Fabian Dattner** Dattner Grant

Fabian Dattner is well known to many Australians. She is founding partner of Dattner Grant, highly regarded leadership experts, and founder of Compass, a national leadership initiative for women. She is also founder of Homeward Bound, a global initiative seeking to build a global collaboration of women in or taking up leadership roles with a view to influencing policy and decision making. The first coterie of women are already working together, and in December 2016, 77 women went on an expedition to Antarctica. Dattner Grant are also the initiators of Women at their best, a Facebook site for ordinary women doing extraordinary things. Fabian is widely recognised for her commitment to helping hundreds of men and women, in as many organisations from Board to basement. She has multiple technical accreditations and has been included in as many books as she's written.

She's a speaker, educator and social entrepreneur and a regular commentator in the media on leadership and ethical issues in Australia today and the role of women in building a sustainable future.

She has been three times a finalist in the TELSTRA Business women's awards (last in 2016) and was selected as one of the NAB 2016 100 Women of Influence.

**How taming your inner critic can be the key to increasing your leadership potential**

## Keynote Speakers



### **Prof Ann Farrell**

Queensland University of Technology

Professor Ann Farrell is Head of the School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education in the Faculty of Education at Queensland University of Technology (QUT). Her early childhood teaching career began as Director of Moranbah C&K Kindergarten and Preschool in Central Queensland and included teaching in metropolitan Brisbane and Vancouver, Canada. She is passionately committed to quality Early Childhood Education and Care and to developing pedagogical leaders for contemporary ECEC settings.

Earning a PhD from The University of Queensland in 1996, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Gothenburg University (Sweden) in 2012. She has authored more than 100 scholarly works, in the areas of early childhood education and care, children's rights to participation and protection, research ethics and international policy analysis.

She is Ministerial Nominee on the Board of the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority and a member of Early Childhood Australia's Publications Committee. She serves as an Australia Research Council International Assessor and as an External Assessor for the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and South Africa's National Research Foundation, Reviews and Evaluation Directorate. She also serves as an Expert Panellist with Australia's Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority.

**What can I apply from best practice early childhood education and care from across the world?**



## Speakers



### **Andrew Alford McArthur**

Andrew's career began in early childhood education. His parents owned and operated a child care centre and he also worked for and supervised an Out of School Hours program for several years. Andrew has also worked in residential disability services and as an integration aide for children with disabilities. More recently, Andrew held an Executive role on a kindergarten Board of Management for three years.

Andrew is a senior manager with 15 years in child protection, social welfare and public sector and over 10 years providing consulting and recruitment services in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

He has public and private sector leadership experience, including many years in the field of child protection and out-of-home care. Andrew is passionate about social justice and adopts a strength-based approach in his daily work. Andrew has expertise in: building high performing and cohesive teams; optimising talent identification and retention strategies; creating collaborative performance management processes; coaching and support; and effective group facilitation and training.

Andrew has experience in program and policy development; service planning and evaluation; project management; strategic planning; risk management; procurement; and contract management. Andrew has also delivered innovation in business systems and processes which included oversight and monitoring of performance by government funded service providers and implementation of recommendations made by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office, Ombudsman and Royal Commissions.

Andrew is a qualified social worker and practiced in both the UK and Australia.

Andrew is also a passionate footballer (the round ball version) and has played and coached at State League level in Victoria and currently coaching juniors in his local community.

**Working with children from vulnerable backgrounds**



### **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.

**Professional conversations with families - the good, the bad and the ugly**

**Your QIP moving forward**

## Speakers



### **Catherine Burkhalter**

Moores

Catherine Burkhalter is an Associate in the Corporate Advisory team with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) / Bachelor of Commerce (Major in Accounting).

Catherine is passionate about empowering clients and providing them with the right tools to achieve compliance and mitigate risks. Catherine takes an educative approach to her practice by delivering training, facilitating early intervention, and problem-solving. Looking after the needs of her clients, in accordance with their unique business objectives, Catherine offers a fully integrated service with a particular focus on employment law, privacy, and commercial agreements.

Catherine represents clients across diverse industries including education, disability, aged care, sport, construction, and retail. She provides practical and commercially sensitive legal advice, develops tailored strategy plans, delivers solutions, and manages projects. Some of the key areas Catherine advises on includes Termination of employment, Workplace investigations, Contractual drafting & interpretation, Independent contracting, Mergers & acquisitions, Enrolment agreements and disputes, Dispute resolution, Health and safety, Workplace training, and Performance management.

Catherine is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of a not-for-profit organisation in the social and community services sector.

**Securely managing your families' data and complying with record keeping requirements**



### **Keith Collins**

Action Victoria

Keith is a well-grounded business builder with a sharp sense of commercial reality. From his early beginnings in his family's hospitality business he was able to develop his skills practically and at business school to start his own organisation. He founded a home services company that provided many services such as commercial painting, maintenance, tree removal and landscaping.

He sought the assistance of a coach to accelerate his undertaking and found himself advising, mentoring and assisting other business owners in his professional circle on a range of business strategies. After selling his services company he made the natural transition into what has now been over 16 years in mentoring and coaching other business owners. He is a key partner in Action Victoria.

**How to separate yourself from the pack!**



## Speakers



### **Cindy Davenport**

#### Safe Sleep Space

Cindy is the Co-Director of Safe Sleep Space/Sleep Smart. She is a registered midwife, IBCLC and maternal and child health nurse. She is member of the Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) and the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA) and has worked in the early parenting field since 1998. Cindy is passionate about the health and wellbeing of families and offers a sensible, response-based approach to help babies and children with sleep problems.

**Understanding the why and ensuring the how of safe sleep**



### **Kim Davis**

#### Astute Early Years Specialists

Kim has spent many years in senior leadership roles within the not-for-profit early childhood sector and has a well-established reputation in delivering operational, as well as pedagogical, excellence areas within the early years. As Co-Director of Astute Early Years Specialists, she brings this expertise to the wider early childhood community for the benefit of educators, children and families.

Having worked in the broad spectrum of jurisdictions and communities across Australia, Kim has a rigorous understanding of the dynamics that are required for the delivery of exceptional early childhood programs.

Kim has extensive experience in working with governments both Commonwealth and State, as well as other stakeholders across the early years. She has worked with universities in facilitating and actioning research with benefits geared towards the workforce, program quality, children from disadvantaged and / or culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds and evaluation.

**Curriculum – language and literacy**

## Speakers



### **Louise Dorrat**

#### Early Childhood Education and Training Consultant

Louise has extensive experience in managing a broad range of early years services and has taught the Bachelor of Education at a number of universities. She is contracted by many organisations to deliver professional development across Australia and New Zealand. Louise's background in theatre provides sessions that are at once engaging and entertaining.

**Assessment and Rating for educators – how to articulate your purpose when the Department comes to visit**



### **Karen Glancy**

#### Early Childhood Pickers

Karen Glancy is an early childhood trainer, consultant and mentor. Karen has extensive experience working in all sectors of early childhood and as well as being co-founder of Early Childhood Pickers. Karen co-owns a gardening and landscaping business.

Karen has a range of qualifications including a Bachelor of Early Childhood Studies and a Horticulture Certificate. She has a particular interest in the development of engaging learning environments using natural and recycled materials, sustainable living, education for the environment, gardening with children and outdoor learning environments.

**Creating sustainable and engaging learning environments**

## Speakers



### **Catharine Hydon**

Hydon Consulting

Catharine has extensive experience in the early childhood sector in Australia and overseas. Beginning as a teacher in a sessional kindergarten program Catharine has gone on to manage a range of services for children and their families from long day settings to community hubs.

Catharine has a Masters in Early Childhood Education specialising in early childhood practice, policy and governance, the delivery of integrated services and the exploration of innovative programs to engage vulnerable children and their families. Catharine draws on this study in her work with practitioners to consider how theory connects and informs practice.

Catharine's involvement in the early childhood field is an important part of her commitment to the sector. She is a long-time member of the Early Childhood Australia (ECA), currently serves as the Co-chair of the Reconciliation Advisory Group and is a regular contributor in ECA publications. Catharine has been a member of the ECA Code of Ethics working group for the last two reviews and is a co-author on the recently published Ethics in Action Implementation guide. Catharine is also a member of the Respectful Relationship Expert Advisory Group for the Victorian Department of Education and the EY-10 Curriculum and Assessment Committee for the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

Catharine is a dynamic speaker and collaborative facilitator and is skilled at engaging professionals in reflective dialogue and creative conversations.

**The pulse of their future lives: Children connecting and contributing to their communities**



### **Cecelia Irvine-So**

Moores

Cecelia Irvine-So is a Workgroup Leader and Principal in the corporate advisory team and an accredited business law specialist.

Cecelia works for a significant number of independent schools regarding joint ventures, corporate compliance, enrolment terms, and privacy compliance, including the new mandatory data breach reporting regime. Cecelia believes in best achieving change and compliance by drawing on the powerful values of each school and early learning centres.

Paying particular focus to the school's mission/purpose, Cecelia advises and presents to Boards, management, staff, volunteers and contractors of educational organisations on education law and how they can implement proactive strategies. This type of work involves advising on the school's policies and procedures, including recruitment procedures, codes of conduct and enrolment policies and procedures.

Cecelia regularly presents to organisations on education law and compliance as well as data and privacy compliance. She has also delivered seminars for Legalwise, the Law Institute of Victoria and for Television Education Network and been published in Law Institute Journal, Insurance and Risk Professional and The Journal of Financial Advice and is the Editor in Chief of the Portner Press Data Privacy Report.

**Securely managing your families' data and complying with record keeping requirements**



## Speakers



### **Craig James**

CommSec

I am married with three '20-something' children and currently live in Huntley's Cove, just to the north of Sydney. My chief interest outside work is Masters athletics, basically sprints.

My current role is Chief Economist, CommSec, interpreting 'big picture' economic and financial trends for customers, clients and staff. As well as providing presentations to staff and clients and commentaries on financial and economic trends, I appear regularly in the electronic and print media.

I have worked in banking, finance and journalism for over 36 years.

I hold both Bachelor and Master degrees in Commerce (Economics). Both degrees were undertaken at University of NSW.

In February 2012 I was appointed an Adjunct Professor at Curtin Business School in Perth.

And in 2016 I was included in the list of top 50 most influential social media users by Financial Standard.

**The Economy vs ECEC**



### **Dr Anne Kennedy**

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.

**The great early childhood debate: Play based pedagogy - what would the children know?**

## Speakers



### **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.

**The great early childhood debate: Play based pedagogy - what would the children know?**

**Intentional teaching: More than justifying what you do**



### **Madeleine Smith** Department of Education and Training (DET), Victoria

Madeleine Smith has been Executive Director of the Quality Assessment and Regulation Division of the Department of Education and Training in Victoria, since the introduction of the National Quality Framework in 2012. Madeleine oversees regulatory matters including training, monitoring and compliance and assessment and rating of Early Childhood Education and Care services in Victoria.

**Lessons learnt: Preparing for Assessment and Rating**

## Speakers



### **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.

**What's happening to our sector?**

### **Speaker to be confirmed**

Early Learning Unit, Department of Education and Training

TBC

Transition to school



## Speakers



### **Nicole Talarico**

Talarico Consulting

Nicole is a consultant who supports Early Childhood Education and Care Services with high quality practice and ongoing improvement planning. Nicole mentors educators:- directors, room leaders, co educators, educational leaders, sustainability officers, management teams, cluster managers to name just a few. She has driven environmental and sustainable practices by leading project groups in many children's services.

Nicole's ability to relate to others comes from her extensive experience working in long day care and sessional preschool. Nicole coordinated Melbourne University's Vacation Care programs and was a tertiary supervisor for Melbourne University. Nicole has worked in local government children's services teams and managed a childcare field officer team before she became an early childhood consultant at Gowrie Victoria.

Nicole is also the founding Director of Medical Action Bag supporting first aid and environmental practices in Australia and New Zealand.

**Sustainability beyond the worm farm**



### **Nick Tindley**

FCB Group

Nick is Executive Manager of HR Consulting and Advisory Services at FCB HR. Based in our Melbourne office, he has over twelve years' experience in providing industrial relations and employment law advice, with particular expertise in the retail industry. In his role as Executive Manager, Nick supervises both the consulting and advisory teams at FCB HR and is responsible for managing a number of key client relationships.

**Managing your HR systems for a quality service**

## Speakers



### **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 fields 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.

Reflective practice; considerations, knowledge and know how: how do you practise reflection?



### **Madame Zelda**

Fountain Lakes Early Years Academy

Madame Zelda is a Kindergarten teacher and Director of Fountain Lakes Early Years Academy.

She is a sought after nationwide keynote speaker on just about everything and is always willing to share her expertise.

The great early childhood debate: Play based pedagogy - what would the children know?

## Additional Information

### Venue

The venue for the 2018 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference and Exhibition is:

**Crown Conference Centre**  
8 Whiteman Street  
Southbank, VIC 3006

### Accommodation

Crown Promenade has been selected as the preferred hotel for the 2018 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference. This 4.5 star property is located immediately adjacent to Crown Conference Centre, the venue for the 2018 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	<b>\$300.00</b>
Standard – 1 Buffet Breakfast at Mesh Restaurant	<b>\$330.00</b>
Standard – 2 Buffet Breakfasts at Mesh Restaurant	<b>\$360.00</b>

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 "2018 Australian Child Care Alliance Victoria" or email [reservations.mcp@crownhotels.com.au](mailto:reservations.mcp@crownhotels.com.au)





## Registration Options 2018 Prices

ACAV Member Full Registration – Early Bird	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
ACAV Member Full Registration	<b>\$650.00</b>
ACAV Member One Day Registration – Friday	<b>\$350.00</b>
ACAV member One Day Registration – Saturday	<b>\$350.00</b>
Non-Member Full Registration – Early Bird	<b>SOLD OUT</b>
Non-Member Full Registration	<b>\$850.00</b>
Non-Member One Day Registration – Friday	<b>\$450.00</b>
Non-Member One Day Registration – Saturday	<b>\$450.00</b>

### Full Registration Includes:

- Access to the 2018 ACA Victoria Conference Sessions on Friday & Saturday
- Access to the Exhibition on Friday & Saturday
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Friday & Saturday

### One Day Pass Includes:

- Access to the 2018 ACAV Victoria Conference Sessions on Friday or Saturday
- Access to the Exhibition on Friday or Saturday
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Friday or 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 27 April 2018 will receive a refund less a \$100 administration fee
- Cancellations after 27 April 2018 will receive no refund
- Delegate substitutions, from the same organisation, may be made prior to COB 13 July 2018 via the on-line registration page
- Delegate substitutions after 13 July 2018 must be made emailing Wise Connections and will incur a \$25 administration fee per change
- Amendments to conference registrations after 27 July 2018 will not be accepted

### 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](http://www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference)



**Australian Childcare Alliance**  
Victoria

[www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference](http://www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference)

**2018 ACA VICTORIA EXCELLENCE IN ECEC**

Professional Conference Organiser **Wise Connections**  
ACA-Victoria@wiseconnections.com.au (03) 9885 6566