



# ACA VICTORIA EXCELLENCE IN ECEC CONFERENCE

16 & 17 AUGUST

• 2019 •



REGISTRATION BROCHURE

# 2019 ACA VICTORIA EXCELLENCE IN ECEC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION BROCHURE

16 & 17 August 2019, Crown Conference Centre  
8 Whiteman Street, Southbank, Melbourne

## Welcome to our 2019 Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care Conference



On behalf of ACA Victoria I am delighted to invite you to register to attend the 2019 Excellence in Early Childhood Education and Care Conference.

This year our theme is "the magic of childhood", which celebrates the wonder of childhood and the importance of early learning in **all** children's physical, cognitive, emotional and social development.

A major event for all those working in or supplying goods and/or services to the early learning sector, this annual conference is a "not-to-be-missed" event in the early learning calendar and will be held at Crown Conference Centre, Melbourne on Friday 16th & Saturday 17th August.

Engaging and expert keynote presentations, break-out sessions for service operators, early childhood teachers and educators, an expansive trade exhibition and opportunities for networking add to the appeal of this highly-regarded event.

Aside from a whole new program of topics and speakers, our Pedagogical Artist in Residence and Activity Hub will allow for additional hands-on fun and learning and the whole event will be imbued with the #ACAVMagicOfChildhood.

I look forward to seeing you on in Melbourne on 16 and 17 August, for a fabulous, magical two days of education, fun and networking.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P Mondo'.

Paul Mondo  
President, Australian Childcare Alliance Victoria

### Who Are We?

ACA Victoria is a membership-based organisation that supports privately owned Long Day Care Centres. Our mission is to help our members to deliver high quality, affordable accessible and sustainable early childhood education and care by:

- Providing advocacy and representation
- Fostering sector partnerships
- Facilitating information exchange, collaboration and networking
- Enhancing skills and capability through professional development opportunities

### 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



## NEW TO THE 2019 CONFERENCE

### Pedagogical Artist in Residence

Dr Red Ruby Scarlet will be Pedagogical Artist in Residence for the duration of the conference. She will facilitate a large scale collective transient artwork to be created by conference delegates as an opportunity to experience and express a professional collaboration that brings together arts practice, sustainability, care for Country, maths, science, gifting and gratitude. A variety of documentation methods will be engaged throughout the generation of this collective work to offer ideas about how educators and teachers might engage in such projects in their educational settings.

Dr Scarlet's notion is that 'Art Adventures for Educators' enables those working with children to find small and achievable ways to incorporate ethical, sustainable and respectful arts practices into everyday curriculum. Delegates will be able to return to their educational settings with a myriad of ideas about bringing learning areas together and illustrating how leading with arts practice enables deep, rich, sophisticated and beautiful learning.

### The Activity Hub

A space set aside in the Exhibition for some hands on, play-based learning for adults! Maybe try some woodwork, art, yoga or dance. It's new and exciting and details will be released closer to the time.

### A Little Touch of Magic!

Magic is about creating a moment in time, where something truly impossible takes place, that you'll never forget witnessing. Our Master of Ceremonies Josh Staley, Melbourne based Conjuror, will create these moments for us all, both as MC and as roving magician.

Be prepared to open yourself up to possibilities and get in touch with your inner child as Josh sweeps you up in moments of magic, fuelling your curiosity and making you wonder "How does he do that?"



## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Day 1 | Friday 16 August 2018

9.00am - 9.30am	<b>Conference Welcome</b> <i>Paul Mondo</i>		
	<b>Keynote</b>		
9.30am - 10.30am	<i>Craig Harper, Harper's Personal Training</i> High performance in business and life		
10.30am - 11.00am	<b>Morning Tea and Visit Exhibition</b>		
	<b>Leadership &amp; Management</b>	<b>Program &amp; Practice</b>	<b>Workshops</b>
11.00am - 12.00pm	<i>Craig Harper, Harper's Personal Training</i> The 'People Stuff' in the middle of the 'Business Stuff'	<i>Heather Barnes, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Unpacking the exceeding themes	<i>Kelly Goodsir, Kelly Goodsir Consultancy</i> The Learning Environment: Invitations for investigation NOT toys on tables
12.00pm - 1.00pm	<b>Lunch and Visit Exhibition</b>		
1.00pm - 2.00pm	<i>Martha McKeen, CBA</i> Cybercrime - How to recognise the threats and protect yourself and your business against them	<i>Dr Red Ruby Scarlet, MultiVerse</i> Cultural Diversity	<i>Galina Zenin, Bonkers Beat</i> Music & wellbeing practices through the lens of the revised NQS
2.00pm - 2.15pm	<b>Short Break</b>		
2.15pm - 3.15pm	<i>Heather Barnes, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Transformational leadership – what does it mean and how does it lead to an exemplary service?	<i>Kelly Goodsir, Kelly Goodsir Consultancy</i> Educational Leadership: Rising to the potential of the role	<i>Lara Jennings, Offspring Education</i> Turning Everyday Opportunities into Projects in Early Childhood
3.15pm - 3.45pm	<b>Afternoon Tea and Visit Exhibition</b>		
	<b>Keynote</b>		
3.45pm - 4.45pm	<i>Dr Charlotte Keating, Psychologist</i> Managing anxiety across the life span at home and at work		
5.00pm - 6.00pm	Join us for evening drinks as ACA Victoria President Paul Mondo discusses the hot topics of the moment.		

Please note this program is subject to change.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Day 2 | Saturday 17 August 2018

9.00am - 9.30am	Conference Welcome		
	Keynote		
9.30am - 10.30am	<i>Chris Dee, Forest School Learning Initiative (FSLI) (UK)</i> A passion for outdoor learning in the early years and why it is so important!		
10.30am - 11.00am	Morning Tea and Visit Exhibition		
	Leadership & Management	Program & Practice	Workshops
11.00am - 12.00pm	Session to be confirmed	<i>Louise Dorrat, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Intentional teaching; where do I begin?	<i>Amanda Grimmond &amp; Sarah Stevens, The Smith Family</i> Let's Count - how to incorporate maths into every day
12.00pm - 1.00pm	Lunch and Visit Exhibition		
1.00pm - 2.00pm	<i>Allan Preiss, McArthur</i> Managing Culture - what it is, why it matters and your role in creating it	<i>Sharyn Enright, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Managing behaviours of concern	<i>Chris Dee, Forest School Learning Initiative</i> Implementing Forest School (Bush Kinder) in your setting
2.00pm - 2.15pm	Short Break		
2.15pm - 3.15pm	<i>Kerrie O'Neill, Early Childhood Consultant</i> Reggio Emilia in an Australian context	<i>Carmel Zeidan, Children's Services Consultant</i> Child focused transitions: supporting learning, relationships & development	<i>Aisling Quigley, Cool Karma Collected</i> Mindfulness for everyday wellbeing
3.15pm - 3.45pm	Afternoon Tea and Visit Exhibition		
	Keynote		
3.45pm - 4.45pm	<i>Louise Dorrat, Early Childhood Consultant and Dr Red Ruby Scarlet, MultiVerse</i> The National Quality Framework - The Musical!		
4.45pm - 5.00pm	Conference Close and Thank You		

Please note this program is subject to change.



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Christina Dee

Forest School Learning Initiative (UK)

Christina Dee has been involved in Forest school since 2000, running Forest school sessions, establishing and running Forest school training to approximately 300 learners a year who are mainly Teachers, Kindergarten workers and teaching assistants.

Forest School Learning Initiative (FSLI) was established by Chris in 2007. Chris is the Director with 8 full time staff and many staff on a part time basis in local areas. Chris organises 3 professional conferences a year for forest school Leaders. Forest school Learning Initiative provides Forest school leader training as well as Forest school sessions to 500 children a week in 13 schools.

Chris has been involved in outdoor education internationally for the last 5 years, firstly establishing Forest School in Shanghai and carrying out training there as well as Forest school sessions. In Australia, Chris and the FSLI team have carried out training in Queensland on 6 occasions to 110 learners over the past three years. Most recently Level 3 Forest school Leader training has taken place in Melbourne.

### Keynote: A passion for outdoor learning in the early years and why it is so important!

Chris will share with you her contagious passion for outdoor learning, as well as research backing up that passion, as she outlines:

- The background to forest school/bush kinder, with examples of settings in Australia
- The benefits to children's physical, social and emotional development
- Its impact on obesity and mental health
- How forest school and bush kinder can be implemented in accordance with a professional learning framework and
- Health and safety management and risk benefit analysis



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Louise Dorrat

Early Childhood Consultant

Louise studied creative arts and performed professionally in Children's Theatre before changing career 30 years ago to early childhood. She has a long history of managing a broad range of early year's programs and teaches the Bachelor of Education at a number of Universities, including the Institute of Koorie Education (IKE) at Deakin University. Louise assisted in the establishment of the Westgarth Bush kinder and worked in the bush setting for 2 years. Louise is contracted by organisations such as Federal and State Governments to deliver professional development across Australia. MEd, BTeach, Dip SSc



### Dr Red Ruby Scarlet

MultiVerse

Dr Red Ruby Scarlet is an activist, early childhood teacher-researcher, consultant, artist and academic. Red has been working in early childhood for over 25 years and is devoted to creative, imaginative, inclusive practices that promote dignity and integrity in early childhood. Red has developed curriculum and learning frameworks nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards for her teaching and advocacy.

Red has published widely foregrounding the stories of the numerous 'teacher-research' projects she has lead and contributed to across the world. She is committed to raising the voices of early childhood teachers and educators through telling and writing their own stories. She has always been part of diverse educational communities. She is a highly sought leader and mentor in the early childhood profession. Red has also been engaged in performing arts throughout her life and has qualifications in drama, performing arts, ballet and Irish dancing from Trinity College, EDTA and AMEB.

Red is the Creative Director of MultiVerse Publishing and the Founding Chair of the Social Justice In Early Childhood Foundation and partner of The Aboriginal Early Childhood Collective. She is an ABC Play School Consultant, one of the architects of the Early Years Learning Framework, and a consultant in the Development of the National Quality Framework.

Red works one day a week face to face as an early childhood teacher at Clovelly Child Care Centre in Sydney.

### Keynote: The National Quality Framework – the musical!

In an all singing all dancing extravaganza, dramaturgical early childhood thespians Dr Red Ruby Scarlet and Louise Dorrat present a splendiferous spectacular salubrious engagement with the National Quality Framework. Grounded in poststructuralist theory, this keynote address is based on the questions:

- What counts as valid knowledge?
- Who decides?
- And in whose interest are they enacted?

These questions asked by Patti Lather (1991) similarly appear on page 13 in Principle 5 of the EYLF, of which Dr Scarlet was an architect. Using everyday life examples - such as the infamous "Working Toward Toast", the constant debate about the "inappropriate footwear" and the "bed side table learning environments", this keynote goes off script to engage with the National Quality Framework in ways that are creative, fun and rigorous.

Get ready for an intellectual, ironic, engaging, toe tapping, hand clapping, finger snapping interactive performance festooned with favourite tunes including the smash hits

- 'QIP as easy as 123' (composed with The Jackson 5)
- 'QA1 Rhapsody' (composed with Queen) and
- 'E.Y.L.F.' (composed with The Village People)

You'll be dancing away convinced that dramatic arts are valid knowledge and they are a useful way to engage with, build understandings, and make sense of, The National Quality Framework.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Craig Harper

Harper's Personal Training

Craig Harper is one of Australia's leading presenters, writers and educators in the areas of health, high-performance, resilience, self-management, leadership, corporate change, communication, stress management, addiction and personal transformation. Craig has been an integral part of the Australian health and fitness industry since 1982 and in that time has worked as an exercise scientist, corporate speaker, consultant, University lecturer, AFL conditioning coach, radio host, TV presenter, writer and successful business owner. In 1990 Craig established Harper's Personal Training, which evolved into one of the most successful businesses of its kind and inhabited the Australian fitness landscape for almost a quarter of a century.

Craig can be heard weekly on various radio stations around Australia and hosts his own weekly show on Melbourne radio called 'the Science of Sport'. For two years he was the host of Foxtel's Living Life Now and for three years Craig filled an on-air role on Network Ten's '9AM' morning show as their resident Fitness Expert and Performance Coach. Craig currently fills an on-air role as the host of a lifestyle show called 'Get a Life', airing on Foxtel. As well as having written for the Herald Sun newspaper, numerous magazines and authoring five books, Craig was also the director of Health and Wellness for Dayhab; one of Australia's leading addiction treatment facilities for three years.

As an Exercise Scientist, Craig has worked with many professional athletes and teams including St. Kilda F.C., Melbourne Vixens, Melbourne Phoenix, Port Melbourne F.C., Nissan Motorsport and a long list of Olympians and world-class athletes competing in a broad range of sports. While still working with teams and individuals on a regular basis, these days Craig delivers more than one hundred corporate presentations annually.

### Keynote: High performance in business and life

What does it mean to be a high-performer? In health? Happiness? Fitness? Business? Career? Sport? Relationships? Life? Who succeeds and why? How can we maximise our time, skills, knowledge and talent to produce 'better' in our world? How do we turn our goals and dreams (theoretical 'somethings') into actual results (real-world 'somethings')? How do we deal with fear in its many forms (procrastination, anxiety, low self-esteem, over-thinking, anger, avoidance) and how do we continue to learn, grow and evolve despite our normal human limitations? Why do some people waste their time, opportunities and potential and how can we be the exception? How can we become the calm in the chaos? The leader not the follower? The solution person not the problem person? And in the middle of it all, how can we discover (or maybe, create) our own life purpose?

If some or all of these questions resonate with you, this presentation could be the catalyst for a new chapter in the book of YOU.





## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### Dr Charlotte Keating

Psychologist

Charlotte Keating has a PhD in neuroscience. She is a psychologist specialising in adolescents and executives. She is a passionate advocate for mental health, particularly for young people. She is uniquely placed as a result of her expertise in psychology and neuroscience to understand the needs of young people and adults and effectively communicate about them as a media personality, psychologist and researcher.

She is recognised for her segments as the Resident psychologist on ABC Radio Afternoons in 2016-2018. She has regularly appeared on Radio National and ABC podcasts related to mental health. She has appeared on channel 10's The Project and was featured as the psychologist for the ABC documentary "Surviving Schools: My Year 7 Life" where she discussed the challenges and triumphs faced by young people in transitioning from primary to secondary school.

Charlotte presents regularly to Victorian schools on various topics including bullying, wellbeing and education. Charlotte has been a panel member for a bi-annual seminar for the Victorian Bar Readers Course: A bad day in court. She has also presented a seminar as part of the professional development program at the Victorian Bar on the role of perfectionism and self-sabotage at work. She speaks at law firms regarding tools for client and self-management.

Charlotte is a Member of the Australian Psychological Society and an Associate Member of the College of Clinical Psychologists. She is a Member of the National Centre Against Bullying, an initiative of the Alannah and Madeline Foundation that aims to keep young people safe in the community, and an Advisor to The Alannah and Madeline Foundation. Charlotte is an Associate Editor and Member of the Editorial Board at the journal, Neuroscience & Biobehavioural Reviews. Charlotte has a Masters in Clinical Psychology. Charlotte held a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Neuroimaging at Swinburne University of Technology (2012-2015) and remains an Adjunct Research Fellow, researching social difficulties in eating disorders and body image disorders. Charlotte has a PhD in Neuroscience from Monash University. She obtained an international award for her research into understanding the mechanisms involved in response to antidepressant therapy. She has published 16 papers, including book chapters and filed two Australian Patents.

Charlotte is an insightful, compassionate and engaging presenter. Her scientific understanding of how the brain behaves enables her to provide accessible, intriguing insights into why we respond as we do as humans, that truly resonates with audiences.

### Managing anxiety across the life span at home and at work

Do you often find that the things you worry about outside of work are on your mind when you're at work, or what you're worried about at work, is on your mind at home? Women experience anxiety more often than men. Our biological make-up means that we are more likely to experience it.

This presentation is about understanding what anxiety is in the brain. What we worry about over different decades, and what you can do to manage it, whether you are in your 20s and transitioning into a career, building a business or a family, in your 30s, sustaining a professional life, or re-entering the work force, the changing nature of your family and work relationships and having the ability and courage to re-calibrate when things are challenging.



### 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.

#### Topic 1: Shedding light on the exceeding themes

The revised Guide to the NQS now includes information about the three exceeding themes which services must demonstrate for any standard to be rated as Exceeding NQS. Services and Authorised Officers are now given guidance about the sort of practice that can be identified as going 'above and beyond' what is needed to meet the standards.

This session will assist you to come to grips with what the exceeding themes are looking for, reflect on your practice and to implement further quality improvements so that it will be evident that you are meeting the themes.

#### Topic 2: QA 7 Transformational leadership - what does it mean and how does it lead to an exemplary service?

Within child care services, leadership is provided by the Approved Provider, the Coordinator/Manager and the Educational Leader and each has a hugely important task in promoting and supporting best practice and positive outcomes for children.

This session will explore how each leader's motivation and commitment can create a clear sense of direction that underpins all aspects of service delivery so that an organisational culture is created where everyone is understood, supported and encouraged to climb on board for the journey.



### Christina Dee

Forest School Learning Initiative (UK)

Christina Dee has been involved in Forest school since 2000, running Forest school sessions, establishing and running Forest school training to approximately 300 learners a year who are mainly Teachers, Kindergarten workers and teaching assistants. Please see full bio under Keynote Speakers at page 6.

#### Implementing Forest School (Bush Kinder) in your setting

Having heard Chris's keynote, take your learning to the next level in this workshop after which you will go back to your service knowing:

- Where forest school (bush kinder) can take place
- What a forest school (bush kinder) session looks like, including practical examples of what you can do
- Health and safety management in an outdoor learning environment.
- How to plan forest school (bush kinder) linked to the Early Years Learning Framework.
- How to incorporate mindfulness in nature

## SPEAKERS



### **Louise Dorrat**

Early Childhood Consultant

Louise studied creative arts and performed professionally in Children's Theatre before changing career 30 years ago to early childhood. She has a long history of managing a broad range of early year's programs and teaches the Bachelor of Education at a number of Universities, including the Institute of Koorie Education (IKE) at Deakin University. Please see full bio under Keynote Speakers at page 7.

#### **Intentional teaching; where do I begin?**

Intentional educators are able to explain what they are doing and why they are doing it. Sometimes 'Intentional Teaching' is purposefully doing nothing.

Intentional Teaching involves educators being deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful in their decisions and actions (NQS 1.2.1). This includes being intentional in providing an anti-bias curriculum and the opposite of teaching by rote or continuing with traditions simply because things have 'always' been done that way (EYLF, p15).

This interactive and practical session will explore being intentional and what that looks like in practice.

- Develop a range of 'Intentional teaching' strategies including listening, demonstrating, showing interest, open ended questions and doing nothing
- Being intentional in providing an anti-bias curriculum and inclusive environment
- Identify books, resources and materials that promote gender equity
- Understanding the intentional positioning of resources and the structuring of the learning environment



### **Sharyn Enright**

Childhood Consultant

Sharyn has had over 25 years working in the early childhood sector. Throughout her career, Sharyn has held a variety of roles as Educational leader and Kindergarten Teacher, Centre Director, lecturer and Program Coordinator at TAFE for over 10 years, including teaching in Chengdu China.

Sharyn's areas of expertise include pedagogical practices and the learning environment, leadership and behaviour guidance techniques.

For the past two years, Sharyn has been providing in house training for early childhood services assisting educators to continue to develop and create meaningful learning environments for children and to facilitate their own professional development.

#### **Managing behaviours of concern**

On a daily basis, one of the biggest challenges faced by early childhood educators is managing the emotions and behaviours of young children.

Often when behaviour becomes the focus of concern, it is because the behaviour is impacting on the child's ability to access learning opportunities or it may be affecting someone else's opportunities.

This session will support participants to understand the educator's role in developing responsive and respectful relationships with children and gain insights into supporting children to develop self-regulation skills and by promoting positive social behaviours with all children; in turn maintaining the dignity and rights of every child.



## SPEAKERS



### Kelly Goodsir

Kelly Goodsir Consultancy

Kelly Goodsir is the Managing Director of Kelly Goodsir Consultancy, a professional learning company that focuses on improving pedagogical practice through strategic educational change in early childhood education. Kelly has committed her 20+ years in early childhood as a leader of pedagogy, practitioner and teacher researcher in both New Zealand and Australian contexts. Kelly leads early childhood study tours to New Zealand annually as the blend of practice and theory combined in professional development really speaks to authentic learning experiences for professionals.

#### Topic 1: Educational Leadership: Rising to the potential of the role

Establishing curriculum direction and aligning your team's shared pedagogy takes determination, excellent communication skills and a strong emphasis on aligning relationships that are centred on 'teaching quality' and 'learning cycles'. Creating a shared approach to teaching and learning can be complex with any ECE team. Kelly will discuss a series of case studies where educational leadership has made a difference and will highlight the important capabilities that this identifies for educational leaders in early childhood.

This session will highlight strategies for educational leadership on:

- Leading learning relationships
- Empowering a team
- Overcoming isolation and individualism
- Being comfortable with challenges

#### Topic 2: The Learning Environment: Invitations for investigation NOT toys on tables

The learning environment offers a gift of curiosity and invitation to investigate for the child. It is rich in authentic materials which have been arranged in ways that provokes thinking and wonder. These are statements we all believe, right? Yet we can find it so difficult to put into practice!

This session will share the practical strategies and approaches to working with the environment to enhance learning engagement of children. We will explore through a case study and practical engagement the following key ideas:

- Design principles
- Being resourceful
- Loose Parts
- Authentic materials



## SPEAKERS



### **Amanda Grimmond**

The Smith Family

Amanda has been working in the early childhood sector for the last 20 years in a diverse cross section of services and in a variety of roles ranging from a casual to manager of services. She has a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) and is currently studying her Masters in Adult and Vocational education.

Amanda has been working for The Smith Family as a Let's Count Coordinator/Facilitator in NSW/ACT for the last two years and holds the view that the most important part of her role is coordinating and facilitating quality evidence based professional development for early years' professionals.

With strengths as a relationship builder and communicator, Amanda enjoys building genuine connections in a face-to-face and online setting. She is passionate about the early years' sector and values the ongoing development of her own skills to ensure that all her dealings in the sector are authentic and productive.

Amanda will be presenting this workshop with Sarah Stevens

### **Let's Count – how to incorporate maths into every day**

Let's Count is evidence-based training that helps improve the mathematics literacy of children 3-5 years old. The program supports early years professionals working in partnership with parents and other family members, to promote positive mathematics experiences and to always look for opportunities to Notice, Explore and Talk about maths in everyday life.



### **Craig Harper**

Harper's Personal Training

Craig Harper is one of Australia's leading presenters, writers and educators in the areas of health, high-performance, resilience, self-management, leadership, corporate change, communication, stress management, addiction and personal transformation. Please see full bio under Keynote Speakers at page 8.

### **The 'People Stuff' in the middle of the 'Business Stuff'**

In business, our people matter most. It's important that they are mentally, emotionally, physically and socially 'healthy'. It matters that they feel valued, heard and cared for. It matters that they enjoy their work, rather than endure it. And in corporate Australia, many people tolerate and endure. Many. It's crucial that leaders and managers understand their business, product, service and brand (of course), but it's just as crucial that they understand how to create a culture and environment that people want to be in. That people rave about.

For that to happen, leaders need to understand things like social, emotional and situational awareness and intelligence. Not just the 'business stuff'. People are the life-force of all businesses and leaders need to consider what it's like 'being around them'. Is their intention, necessarily the other person's experience? It's also important for all of us to understand why being 'a good talker' doesn't always translate to effective communication, connection, conflict resolution, problem solving or leadership.

This workshop is designed to stimulate thought, conversation and awareness and ultimately, to help create positive shift around communication, connection, culture and leadership.



### **Lara Jennings**

Offspring Education

Lara Jennings is a self-confessed education nerd, a primary teacher by trade, a secondary teacher through experience and an early childhood educator at heart. As the Founder and CEO of Offspring Education Lara helps educators create environments that are sustainable and beautiful, to allow children to ignite their passions and love of learning through play, exploration and art.

With 8 years' experience in Education there is no age that Lara has not taught, but her heart lies with the curious four year olds who want to question the how and why of everything around them. Her favourite moments are seeing the joy on their faces when they discover something new and exciting in the everyday opportunities of life.

### **Turning everyday opportunities into projects in Early Childhood**

What does a project look like in early childhood? What experiences can we use to facilitate project-based learning?

When we look to Reggio Emilia to seek guidance for project-based practice, we see beautiful documentation on display for the world to see that show projects that were completed over great lengths of time. But is that a realistic endeavour for us?

During this practical workshop you will see that project ideas can come and go like the weather throughout the day in early childhood. The key is to act quickly to catch and document the learning with the children to guide their interests and ideas, rather than about the children at a later date. You will learn how recording a simple conversation can be a project in itself and that there is always a question never too far away that can be asked and explored to undertake a preschool project of any length.



### **Martha McKeen**

Commonwealth Bank of Australia

The Cyber Outreach team within Commonwealth Bank's Digital Protection Group aims to positively shape the digital environment to support safer online experiences for people, businesses and communities.

As Cyber Outreach Senior Manager, Martha draws on a diverse skillset and collaborates with a multi-disciplinary team to drive forward Cyber Outreach streams of work which include cyber skills development, corporate and business client capability building, staff and community awareness and policy influence.

### **Cybercrime - How to recognise the threats and protect yourself and your business against them**

Phishing – Smishing – Malware. You know these words, but can you recognise when your business might be under threat from them? The risks posed by cybercrime are increasingly sophisticated, complex and real. The potential losses of money, time and productivity are significant.

Join Martha to understand more about the threats and to learn how you and your team can recognise them and take steps to protect yourself against cybercrime.



## SPEAKERS



### **Paul Mondo**

President Australian Childcare Alliance Victoria, Australian Childcare Alliance and Approved Provider Bimbi Early Learning

Paul has a long-established history in early childhood education and care which started with working in the family business. Over the years, he has built, bought and sold various services and is currently the Approved Provider of Bimbi Day Care in Airport West.

Reflecting his passion for the sector and ensuring the viability of early education and care in Australia, Paul is also President of the Australian Childcare Alliance both in Victoria and nationally. Paul plays a key role in advocating for the interests of ACA members and the sector more broadly.

### **Hot topics of the moment**

With multiple influences, from the result of the federal election and ensuing policy changes, to policy development in state government, to the continuing impact of the Child Care Subsidy, the ECEC sector is an ever-changing space. Join us in this hour to hear about the topics causing most excitement or concern in the sector.



### **Kerrie O'Neill**

Early Childhood Consultant

Kerrie O'Neill, M. ED (Early Childhood) is an Early Childhood Consultant and author whose experience with the early childhood sector spans over 30 years.

Kerrie has worked as a kindergarten teacher, a Director of an Early Learning Centre, a trainer and assessor delivering the Certificate III and the Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care and as a tertiary level lecturer at Melbourne Polytechnic (formerly NMIT). She has worked for the Department of Education and Training in Victoria as both an Authorised Officer and as a Senior Policy Officer.

Kerrie is a founding member of the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange (from 2000) and is a current committee member. Kerrie's work in the early childhood sector has been profoundly influenced by the educational project of Reggio Emilia, Italy, since her first study tour to the city in 1996.

### **Reggio Emilia in an Australian context**

In the course of many visits to Reggio Emilia in Italy, Kerrie O'Neill has come to better understand the Reggio Emilia educational philosophy and practices.

Although not explicit, many of the phrases and pedagogical concepts used in the Early Years Learning Framework and the National Quality Standards represent pedagogical concepts implicit in the Reggio Emilia Educational Project – the environment as the third teacher and the image of the child as rich, strong and powerful – among others.

Join Kerrie in her powerful presentation as she uses documentation from the Australian context as a strategy for educators to critically reflect on their understanding of the Reggio Emilia pedagogical practices and illustrate how some practices can be utilised authentically in Australian Early Childhood settings.

## SPEAKERS



### Allan Preiss

McArthur

Education is in Allan's DNA. As a teacher, consultant or senior executive, he has spent his entire working life 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.

### Culture - what it is, why it matters and your role in creating it.

"The problems with our banks are the result of an appalling culture."

"Ball tempering happened because of the win at all costs culture prevalent in Australian cricket."

As early childhood owners and directors you are rightfully focused on occupancy rates and profitability. However, these things are the outcomes of the many things you do to bring families into your centre. Chief among these, we keep hearing, is to build the "right" culture. This is crucial to building successful and sustainable organisations.

But how clear are we about what you mean by the right culture? And how do you communicate that to your people? And what role do you play as a leader in creating and maintaining the culture that is critical in ensuring the best possible outcomes for the children, their families and educators?

These are some of the questions we will look at in this interactive session. Participants should be prepared to think and talk about what they see as the culture in their centre and how it impacts the way educators work with the children, families and each other.



### Aisling Quigley

Cool Karma Collected

Aisling discovered yoga and mindfulness in the midst of her fast-paced career in media and marketing and very quickly realised that these tools would become an integral part of being able to hold the balance of a high-pressure corporate life while maintaining health and happiness in her personal life.

Recognising that she wanted to share these invaluable tools with others, Aisling trained with some of the best Mindfulness and yoga teachers in Australia and has now moved away from her career to become a teacher and corporate facilitator of Mindfulness and Yoga. Aisling runs sessions that are down to earth and easily relatable. She keeps things as interactive and practical as possible and leaves participants feeling both rejuvenated and calm.

### Mindfulness for everyday wellbeing

In this 60 minute session to be presented by one of Cool Karma Collected's most well regarded facilitators, you will be introduced to practising mindfulness. You will have the opportunity to experience 4 different practices and walk away with some tangible tools you can use in everyday life, assisting you to maintain balance, health and happiness.

## SPEAKERS



### **Dr Red Ruby Scarlet**

MultiVerse

Dr Red Ruby Scarlet is an activist, early childhood teacher-researcher, consultant, artist and academic. Red has been working in early childhood for over 25 years and is devoted to creative, imaginative, inclusive practices that promote dignity and integrity in early childhood. Red has developed curriculum and learning frameworks nationally and internationally. She has won numerous awards for her teaching and advocacy. Please see full bio on page 7.

#### **Cultural Diversity**

Salad is good for you! There is no doubt, but when it comes to cultural diversity in early childhood curriculum, our ways into understanding cultural diversity need to reflect the beauty, nuance and injustice that cultural diversity encompasses. Drawing from principles of 'inclusion', the anti-bias goals and the EYLF, this workshop will invite you to unravel what we mean by cultural diversity by looking at the history of why we need to have it as part of our curriculum.

This unravelling will enable deep understandings of what cultural diversity is and how to plan for it.

Using current 'Professional Expressions' from her teaching, Dr Red Ruby Scarlet will illustrate the vastness of cultural diversity, theories that shape our understandings and stories that will prompt practices that honour cultural diversity in all its kaleidoscopic colour.

Some of her stories are online for people to enjoy and can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/multiverseaus/>



### **Sarah Stevens**

The Smith Family

Sarah is a qualified school teacher with over 20 years of experience. For the past 10 years Sarah has worked as Novita Children's Services Parent Engagement Program Manager working on a number of National and International Program initiatives for Government and Community organisations.

Sarah is currently The Early Years Project Officer for The Smith Family. She has a good understanding of the critical relationship between parents/carers and young children and has considerable experience working with parents in their role as their child's first teacher.

Sarah prides herself on being able to engage and collaborate with families from diverse social and cultural backgrounds. She is passionate about community connection and its significance in supporting families with young children and currently facilitates training for professionals to support them in their roles working with families within their communities.

Sarah will be presenting this workshop with Amanda Grimmond.

#### **Let's Count – how to incorporate maths into every day**

Let's Count is evidence-based training that helps improve the mathematics literacy of children 3-5 years old. The program supports early years professionals working in partnership with parents and other family members, to promote positive mathematics experiences and to always look for opportunities to Notice, Explore and Talk about maths in everyday life.



## 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 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.

### **Child focused transitions: supporting learning, relationships & development**

In this practical session, Carmel will explore with you:

- Attachment, learning, and relationships between children and primary caregivers
- How transitioning children affects development and trust
- Transitioning policies that support relationships and children
- When to transition, how to transition and flexibility.



## SPEAKERS



### Galina Zenin

Founder, Bonkers Beat

Galina Zenin (B.Mus. Ed., Dip. Teach.) is an early childhood consultant, music expert, author, composer and the founder of the first Music Kinder in Australia - Bonkers Beat, which was rated 'Excellent' by ACECQA in 2018.

Galina is a creator of Bonkers Beat Music & Bonkers Gym Wellbeing Programs, which were selected to be presented at the 2010 & 2011 Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (Victoria) Innovation Showcases. In September 2018, Bonkers Beat Music Programs were selected by the Department of Education and Training (Victoria) for inclusion in the a School Readiness Funding menu.

Galina is a recipient of the 2015 National Excellence in Teaching Award by Australian Scholarships Group (ASG). Her passion and knowledge are appreciated by audiences across the world. From keynote presentations to small group workshops, Galina has inspired audiences on 3 continents and has been widely featured in the national media.

### Music & wellbeing practices through the lens of the revised NQS

Since 1 February 2018, many services and educators have started looking for ways to go 'above and beyond' what is expected for meeting National Quality Standards. New guidelines were developed to clarify the difference between Meeting and Exceeding NQS rating levels for each standard. This allows services to improve their curriculum and understand the expectations of the revised NQF.

Many elements of the NQS, including Element 1.1.1, focus on developing the best possible outcomes for children and enhancing their wellbeing. The exploration of creative arts, including music, now plays an even bigger role in meeting these additional expectations.

Some services have found that wellbeing practices which are 'above and beyond' Meeting NQS level are still a novelty.

This interactive workshop will inspire and help participants discover how to:

- Embed daily music and wellbeing experiences
- Maximise opportunities for each child's learning through transitional songs
- Provide opportunities for children to engage in singing, dancing, creative movement, drama, yoga, mindfulness and other educational experiences that enhance children's wellbeing, learning and development





## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



### Venue

The venue for the 2019 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference & Exhibition is:

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

### Accommodation

Crown Promenade has been selected as the preferred hotel for the 2019 ACA Victoria Excellence in ECEC Conference. This 4.5 star property is located immediately adjacent to Crown Conference Centre, the venue for the 2019 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>\$256.00</b>	Thurs/Fri
Standard – Room Only	<b>\$315.00</b>	Sat

*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 6388 and quote "2019 Australian Child Care Alliance Victoria" or email [reservations.mcp@crownhotels.com.au](mailto:reservations.mcp@crownhotels.com.au)



## REGISTRATION OPTIONS

### 2019 Prices

ACAV Member Full Registration – Early Bird	<b>\$550 *</b>
ACAV Member Full Registration	<b>\$695</b>

  

ACAV Member One Day Registration – Friday	<b>\$450</b>
ACAV member One Day Registration – Saturday	<b>\$450</b>

  

Non-Member Full Registration – Early Bird	<b>\$750 *</b>
Non-Member Full Registration	<b>\$850</b>

  

Non-Member One Day Registration – Friday	<b>\$550</b>
Non-Member One Day Registration – Saturday	<b>\$550</b>

#### Full Registration Includes:

- Access to the 2019 ACAV Victoria Conference Sessions on Friday & Saturday
- Access to the Exhibition on Friday & Saturday
- Morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea on Friday & Saturday
- Participation in the Artist in Residence Program and Activity Hub

#### One Day Pass Includes:

- Access to the 2019 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
- Participation in the Artist in Residence Program and Activity Hub

\*Early Bird Registration Closes: 11 April 2019 or when 100 Early Bird Registrations have been received.

To register, go to [www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference](http://www.vic.childcarealliance.org.au/events/conference)

#### Cancellation Policy

- Please make all cancellations and changes to registrations via the on-line registration page
- Failure to advise of cancellation in advance will lead to forfeit of all fees paid
- Cancellations before 19 July 2019 will receive a refund less a \$100 administration fee
- Cancellations on or after 20 July 2019 will receive no refund
- Delegate substitutions, from the same organisation, may be made prior to 20 July 2019 via the on-line registration page
- Delegate substitutions after 20 July 2019 must be emailed to [aca-victoria@wiseconnections.com.au](mailto:aca-victoria@wiseconnections.com.au)

#### 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.

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