



2015 Early Childhood Education Conference



ELAA and Gowrie Victoria would like to thank our colleagues for being part of the 2015 Early Childhood Education conference. Over 1000 delegates – the largest number ever – came together to participate in an event that showcased a program full of high-calibre international and Australian speakers who focused on the theme *investing in our future*.

The conference was opened by the Parliamentary Secretary, Judith Graley MP on Friday and the Minister for Families and Children, Jenny Mikakos, addressed the delegates on Saturday. Writer and social commentator Kaz Cook delighted the audience with an entertaining account of the challenges of parenthood.

The keynote speaker, Professor Charles E Pascal entertained and informed the opening plenary session. He reflected

on the importance of both pedagogical investment in learning outcomes for children, and the importance of financial investment by governments in the provision of quality early childhood education and care services at a time when the sector has been under review by the Productivity Commission.

Saturday's delegates were treated to an informative plenary session presented by Dr Sharon Goldfeld – *Using a place based approach to create change for children* – which looked at the challenge for children's policy in Australia, the impacts of disadvantage on children and how place can change children's chances.

Many of this year's speaker's presentations as well as recordings of the plenary sessions are available for you to download from the conference website www.togetherwegrow.com.au.

ELAA and Gowrie Victoria are grateful to the Creswick Foundation for bringing Professor Charles E Pascal to speak at this year's conference. We would also like to extend our thanks to our gold sponsors, the Department of Education and Training, for their contribution which covered accommodation costs for rural delegates, as well as our other sponsors Australian Super and VicRoads.

We would like to thank everyone for making the 2015 conference a great success – the conference reference committee who set the theme and developed the program, our speakers, trade fair exhibitors, sponsors who help keep our registration costs to a minimum and of course, the many attendees from across the early learning sector.

A conference for everyone involved in early childhood education
from birth to the early years of school

29–30 May 2015, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne

together we grow investing in our future



"Great range of speakers,
excellent keynotes"

"High quality and passionate
presenters"

"I only wish I could have
attended all sessions!
I have thoroughly enjoyed
my time!"

"Incredibly organised,
engaging speakers and
opportunities for questions
and discussions"

"I had a great time, came
away with knowledge and
inspiration!"



Clockwise from top left: Delegates enjoying Louise Dorrat's & Zora Marko's presentation; Bernadette Coles-James; Jo Gaisl sharing music, movement and drama; making the most of the Trade Fair; Jo Lange.

Opposite clockwise from top left: Charles E Pascal during the opening presentation; a monotreme moment at the trade fair; discussing Nature-Based Practice in Australia.

2016 Early Childhood Education Conference

The planning for the 2016 Early Childhood Education Conference is well underway. If you have any ideas for speakers you would like to see next year contact Sue Doring sdoring@elaa.org.au.

Save the dates: 27–28 May 2016