



# 2016 Early Childhood Education Conference



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

The 2016 Early Childhood Education Conference, *Together we grow – connecting communities*, will be held on 27 and 28 May, 2016 at Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne. The conference will inspire, engage and bring together early childhood professionals across the wide spectrum of early childhood education.

This year's conference theme, *connecting communities* was chosen by the Conference Reference Committee to reflect the importance of community connections to improve life-long outcomes for children. As the old adage says – it takes a village to raise a child – so we have explored themes of connections with families, other services, the ECEC community and colleagues.

Early childhood is a vital period in children's lives. The experiences and quality of interactions in the early years provide the foundation for all subsequent learning and behaviour. High quality early education and care programs benefit children now and into the future, with ongoing health, education, and social impacts. The Early Years Learning

Framework views children's lives in the context of belonging, being and becoming – “knowing where and with whom you belong... recognising the significance of the present... and learning to participate fully and actively in society.”

High calibre speakers from Australia and overseas will share their views and expertise with our audience – everyone involved in early childhood education from birth to the early years of school.

We are thrilled to present one of the best, and most varied, conference programs yet; lead by expert key note speakers, Charlotta Oberg, Robyn Monro Miller, Anne Kennedy and Anthony Semann.

Thank you to our Gold Sponsor the Department of Education and Training, our Major Sponsors AustralianSuper and VicRoads, our exhibitors and delegates for their support and contribution towards the conference and acknowledge members of the 2016 Conference Reference Committee for their invaluable contribution.

## Some highlights of this year's program

### *Educating the global village* presented by Charlotta Oberg

Australia is one of the most multicultural nations in the Western World, with one in four people born overseas, and over 200 languages spoken in our communities.

When we consider that every family is a culture, the mix becomes even richer.

It asks a lot of all who work in Early Childhood, to connect across cultures with children, families and communities. This interactive, inspiring session equips delegates to think and act in productive ways that bridge cultural gaps.

Topics include:

- Cultural Competence – the three key things you need to be effective in a culturally diverse environment
- Seeing Culture at Work – the global smorgasbord of approaches to child rearing, child care and learning
- Understanding the Differences that Matter – How culture impacts expectations, preferences and practices
- Bridging Cultural Gaps – connecting across cultures, by applying Cultural Competence to real-life examples
- Cultivating Multicultural Mindsets – in ourselves and others

*Charlotta Oberg is a social entrepreneur with a decade of cultural diversity experience on 3 continents. Originally from Sweden, she began traveling the world with international education program Up with People. Since then, she has been a “cross-cultural junkie”, focusing her Masters degree on Cross-Cultural Communication, making it her life's work to ignite Multicultural Mindsets and generally going global – if not physically so much at this time in life, so through other people's minds and experiences. Her vision is for a society where cultural diversity goes from being a curiosity and a challenge into a true source of richness.*

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**27–28 May 2016, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne**

## *together we grow* **connecting communities**

### ***Listening when you cannot hear their voices presented by Robyn Monroe Miller***

Educators spend a lot of time identifying the needs of families and children, in fact all educators have a responsibility to do so!

This presentation challenges educators to think differently about what listening to families and children really means and how to hear the voices of others who don't appear to engage using traditional methods.

Through adopting a rights based approach with a twist of practical down to earth logic, and a splash of interactive fun, educators will be empowered to change the way they think about how they engage with families and children. The key message is all families and children have

a voice – the skill is identifying it and creating an environment for it to occur.

*Robyn Monroe Miller is the CEO of Network of Community Activities in NSW. She has been an advocate for children at a State, National and international level for the past 25 years most notably as Chair of the National Out of School Hours Services Association, the Board of the Children's Week Council of Australia and as Vice President of the International Play Association. In 2012 Robyn was part of the international delegation to the United Nations in Geneva to progress the development of the UN General Comment on Article 31 "The child's right to play" which was adopted in February 2013.*

To register on-line and to find out more about our program and speakers, visit our website **[www.togetherwegrow.com.au](http://www.togetherwegrow.com.au)**. Subscribe to ELAA's eNews for regular conference up-dates.

On-line registrations open in February; book early to receive an early bird discount – don't miss-out on what promises to be our best conference yet!

