



2016 Early Childhood Education Conference



The 2016 Early Childhood Education conference will be held on 27 and 28 May at Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne. It promises to inspire, engage and bring together the early childhood sector with a special emphasis on connecting communities.

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.

Inspiring speakers include:

Charlotta Öberg

Charlotta Öberg has dedicated 15 years to equipping professionals around the world with Cultural Intelligence to help them succeed in global business. With cultural diversity experience from three continents, she develops global mindsets in business and organisations in Australia and Asia.

Keynote session: Educating in the global village – connecting across cultures with cultural competence

Australia is one of the most multicultural nations in the world, with over one in four

people born overseas and more than 200 languages spoken in our communities.

This interactive, inspiring session provides delegates with validated tools and practical tips to succeed at work. Delegates will be equipped to thrive in their part of the global village – and to help children and families do so to.

Dr Helen Bilton

Dr Helen Bilton is Associate Professor of Education at the University of Reading, England. She trained as an early years teacher and published the first book on the outdoor play environment in 1998: *Outdoor Play in the Early Years*. Her most recent publication: *Exploring Outdoors* is about a whole school approach to children working outside.

Conference session: Do we really see what we think we see? Girls and boys – ensuring equality of opportunity

We may think we are giving equal time and attention to all children but how do we know if we are?

In this session, Helen will share research about interactions between staff and children and show how staff can measure the interactions they have with children.

Dr Noella Mackenzie

Dr Noella Mackenzie is a Senior Lecturer in literacy studies at Charles Sturt University, Albury. For the past eight years, Noella has focused on the teaching and learning of writing. Her research has included the examination of the relationship between drawing and learning to write; the transition experiences of early writers; and writing development in the early years.

Conference session: Draw-Talk-Write

Early childhood educators who encourage and value children's drawing and talking can build a bridge between these existing modes of communication and writing.

In this session, I discuss how drawing and talking can support children's introduction to writing with reference to EC educators from preschools and schools.

ELAA and Gowrie Victoria offers assistance to disadvantaged services

ELAA and Gowrie Victoria are pleased to announce that we are offering assistance to disadvantaged services to attend the conference this year.

To apply for this special funding, tell us in 250 words or less what type of early childhood service you provide, why your organisation requires this assistance and who you would like to attend the conference. A panel of members from the ECE organising committee will review applications and select the recipients. Send your applications to Tania De Carli at tdecarli@elaa.org.au by **Friday 6 May 2016**. Please note the assistance is available to new applicants only.

For more information go to www.togetherwegrow.com.au



2016 Early Childhood Education Conference

Don't miss Saturday morning's Great Debate!

Moderated by Dr Anne Kennedy, join Anthony Semann, Director of Semann & Slattery and Madame Zelda, (aka Louise Dorrat) Kindergarten Director of Fountain Lakes, to tackle the big issues;

"Risky business in early childhood: What do the experts have to say?"

Early childhood education and care settings are not immune to the fast pace of our society and the issues that face our communities. One of the pressure points in families, communities and ECEC settings is how we protect children from risks and possible harms without wrapping them up in cotton wool.

The challenge for educators and parents is to balance child safety with the right of children to play freely and to engage in risk-taking. Connecting children with their community can trigger questions about risks and risk management. Experts, including our panel debaters, are divided in their opinions about this risky business.

The debaters, well known early childhood experts – Anthony Semann and Louise Dorrat – will share their strong but opposing views on the issue of risk and risk management in ECEC and why children should or should not be out and about in their communities. Anne Kennedy will keep the conversation rollicking along, Q&A style.

Win \$500 and a resources pack!

Nominations are now open for the Starting Out Safely Road Safety Education Award. The Award is sponsored by VicRoads and will be presented on Saturday 28 May 2016 at the conference.

Nominations are open to all Victorian early childhood educators and services. The Award recognises and celebrates the achievements of early childhood educators in providing exemplary road safety education. The winner will receive \$500 and a resource prize pack for their nominated service. To apply for this Award please share a practice example or learning story (approximately 200 words) highlighting how road safety education is embedded into your curriculum and prepares children for life.

Please email your nomination to rse@ela.org.au by **12 May 2016**.



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

27–28 May 2016, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne

together we grow **connecting communities**

DET, the Gold Sponsor, offers accommodation support

Victorian children's services employees and early childhood educators of kindergarten, Prep, Years 1 and 2 children who work in a rural area will be eligible for rebates for their conference accommodation costs from the Department of Education and Training.

Please note that this assistance is limited and will be provided on a first come, first serve basis. Accommodation is at the Pullman and Mercure Melbourne Albert Park or the Novotel Melbourne St Kilda.

DET will pay for one nights' accommodation (up to \$180 standard room rate – Thursday or Friday night only) for delegates attending one day of the conference, and 2 nights' accommodation (up to \$360 standard room rate – Thursday & Friday nights only) for delegates attending both the Friday and Saturday sessions. Transport to and from the conference venue will be provided from both hotels on both days of the conference.

To apply for this assistance you must register for the conference, book and pay for your accommodation at the Pullman or Mercure Melbourne Albert Park, then email your request for a rebate and a copy of the hotel booking confirmation to tdecarli@elaa.org.au. Your rebate cheque will be mailed to you after the conference.



Conference social networking

Updates on the conference will be posted regularly on the ELAA Facebook page and via Twitter @ELAAustralia. Don't forget to follow the action during the conference on twitter by using the hashtag #2016twg and @togetherwegrow.

The ECE conference organisers committed to a greener event

The *Together we grow* conference will take a greener approach this year.

We have substantially reduced our use of paper. Presentations will be available on the conference website after the event. We will not be including inserts in our conference pack this year and have sourced bags which are ethically manufactured using renewable materials.

The water at the conference will be supplied by Thankyou™, which is a social enterprise that funds life-changing and sustainable water projects in developing nations. Gifts for conference presenters will include a donation to education programs which support vulnerable children and families and chocolates from the Mildura Chocolate Company, which provides work-skills for its supported workforce.

The *Together we grow* conference reference committee includes representatives from Early Learning Association Australia, Gowrie Victoria, Community Child Care, Centre for Community and Child Health, City Of Monash, Department of Education and Training, Family Day Care, FKA, Noah's Ark, Playgroup Victoria and Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.



The Conference App

The 2016 *Together we grow* app is designed to enhance your conference experience. It enables you to create your own schedule, record your program selections, access the latest program, session and speaker information, browse the trade fair exhibitors and receive up-date alerts.

To download free to your mobile or tablet simply go to eventmobi.com/togetherwegrow in your mobile or tablet browser and the app will download automatically.

**To register on-line for the conference and to find out more
about the program and speakers, visit our website
www.togetherwegrow.com.au**