

# Organisational Report 2016–17

We are very pleased to present the 2016–17 ELAA Organisational Report.



Shane Lucas

## Refreshed Strategic Action Plan 2017–2027

We have worked hard over recent months to refresh our strategic directions and to continue to align our values and our purpose to our core task: driving *excellence in early learning for every child*.

In and of itself, the strategic planning process we commenced in February was empowering for staff and our Board, and we hope for many of our members and stakeholders who were also asked to contribute their insights through a targeted consultation process. We are extremely proud of the finished product and believe it is a strategic plan that is genuinely “owned” by the organisation at all levels.

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Lee Cath

## 2016–17 Highlights

There have been many highlights in a year in which reforms have been consolidated across our sector.

Working closely with members, we have strengthened the alignment of our Early Years Management Reference and CEO groups to better inform our advocacy, and to genuinely influence the governance and strategic directions of the Early Years Management Framework.

We have provided members with a suite of online resources to support them to implement the Victorian Early Childhood Teachers and Educators Agreement (VECTEA) 2016, and we have represented our members’ interests in matters before the Fair Work Commission.

We have redeveloped the ELAA website to improve members’ and visitors’ experiences, and used the site and other traditional and social media platforms to enhance our advocacy around the National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access, and the Commonwealth Government’s Jobs for Families childcare assistance package.

We have continued to play a leading role in the cross-sectoral Early Learning Everyone Benefits campaign, participating in advocacy events in the Federal Parliament and sharing communication and campaign resources to inform the broader public of the benefits of early childhood education.

We have entered into a third consecutive three-year contract with VicRoads to deliver the *Starting Out Safely* Road Safety Education Program. And in partnership with VicRoads, the Victorian Transport Accident Commission,



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and the Royal Children's Hospital, we have developed *Car Seats Save Lives*, a compelling online resource designed to help parents and carers keep children safe in cars.

We have delivered an expanded professional learning and development program for educators; provided online training modules to support committees of management to meet their responsibilities; and facilitated the largest presenter program in the history of the Early Childhood Education Conference. The Conference is a showpiece not just for ELAA, but for Gowrie Victoria and all the organisations that provide resources and support through the Conference Reference Committee.

### Thank you

Like the Conference, many of our most valued offerings to members are cyclical in nature, but they don't just happen: they occur because ELAA staff, members and partners make them happen.

We continue to sincerely appreciate the support of our preferred corporate partners; the Victorian and Commonwealth Departments of Education and Training;

philanthropic and other sponsors; and colleagues at all levels of government and within our peer organisations across the early learning and community sectors.

As always, we thank our members for their support, and the ELAA Board for its support and leadership.

We would especially like to acknowledge the contribution of our retiring Board members – Nicole Pilsworth and Charles Power.

Our roles as CEO and President are made so much easier by our committed and professional colleagues at ELAA. The management team – Tina, Tania, Zora and Glenda – and all our staff lighten our load and consistently deliver for our members.

Thank you again to everyone in the ELAA community for your comradeship and commitment to excellence in early learning.

Lee Cath President

Shane Lucas CEO

