



EARLY  
LEARNING  
ASSOCIATION  
AUSTRALIA

The voice for parents and service providers

# PRE SCHOOL MATTERS

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
PREPARING CHILDREN FOR LIFE  
TERM THREE 2019

VIC FUNDED 3-YEAR-OLD  
KINDERGARTEN

EXPLORING SCHOOL  
READINESS

REVIEW YOUR SUN  
PROTECTION POLICY







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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*In this edition of Preschool Matters ...*

The Review of the Universal Access National Partnership (UANP) offers a critical opportunity for early years services and stakeholders to make their views known on the future of '15 Hours' and other important Commonwealth funding for our sector. There's more about it in our CEO's Report on page 4 and I encourage members and supporters to read this section. It's vital that we don't drop the ball on universal access to quality early learning and positioning our sector as a progressive influence on the futures of our children and our nation. Submissions and survey responses to the UANP are due by 6 October 2019 and I urge you to have your say.

The three-year-old kindergarten rollout in Victoria is gathering momentum, with enrolments now being received by services in the first local government areas selected to commence the scheme in 2020. There's an overview of the rollout on pages 8-10 followed by our regular Q&A section on pages 12-13 which we have devoted to key questions concerning the rollout.

ELAA member, bestchance, give us a great wrap up on their recent School Readiness Conference on pages 18-20 which considered the hot topic of School

Readiness Funding and just what is meant by 'readiness' and its importance to our sector and the community.

On pages 22-25 we find out how our 2019 Starting Out Safely Road Safety Education Award Winner, Cooida Preschool in Stawell, makes road safety education and connecting with their community a part of the every day.

There are also some handy tips from Cancer Council Victoria about keeping your children and staff sun smart this coming summer (pages 26-28) and Exercise Physiologist, Robyn Papworth, provides great advice on tackling declining motor skill development in our children on pages 34-36.

Finally, the ELAA AGM takes place on November 14 so don't forget to RSVP by October 31. As is tradition, the AGM will include the McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards so don't miss your chance to nominate the people who make a difference to your early learning service for this year's Awards. Nominations close October 17 – more details on pages 30-31. Happy reading.

**Lee Cath, President, ELAA**



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## CEO'S REPORT



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*It is vital that early learning services make their feelings about universal access to 15 hours known to the Review as this may have a significant influence on the future of this Commonwealth funding source.*

### Don't miss your chance to have your say on the future of 15 hours

An independent review (the Review) is being conducted into the national funding arrangements that support access by all children in Australia to 600 hours per year (better known as '15 hours' a week) of quality early childhood education in the year before full-time school.

The Review, conducted by Nous Group, has been commissioned by State, Territory and Australian Government Education Ministers and is due to report in the first half of 2020.

**The Review** of the Universal Access National Partnership (UANP) – formally known as the 'National Partnership Agreement on Universal Access to Early Childhood Education' – will inform governments' decisions about future preschool arrangements. Among other things, the UANP Review will consider how to maximise preschool participation, particularly for Indigenous children, children in regional and remote areas, and children experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage.

Nous is inviting submissions from parents and carers, preschool and school staff and



leaders, representative and peak bodies, early childhood education experts, researchers and others. Alternatively, you can also complete a survey on the [UANP Review website](#). The public submission period opens 6 September 2019 and closes at 11.59pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time) 6 October 2019. It is vital that early learning services make their feelings about universal access to 15 hours known to the Review as this may have a significant influence on the future of this Commonwealth funding source.



### Portable Long Service Leave

During September 2019, ELAA met with the Portable Long Service Authority to discuss the implementation of the scheme from 1 January 2020. Employers are encouraged to register with the scheme as a priority to ensure that the changed requirements for long service leave are met. Instructions on how to register your organisation can be found at:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/employer-information-portable-long-service#how-to-register-your-business>

All enquiries on the scope of the scheme should be directed to the authority at:

- 1800 517 158
- [enquiries@plsa.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@plsa.vic.gov.au)

### VECTEA

Formal bargaining around the next Victorian Early Childhood Teachers and Educators Agreement has now commenced. Over the coming months, ELAA, MAV and the AEU will meet on a fortnightly basis to progress the key terms and conditions of the agreement. The process will also involve discussions with the Victorian Department of Education and Training around their contribution to funding core elements of the agreement.



### ELAA's Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14 November 2019

### See you at the ELAA AGM

The ELAA AGM is on November 14. This year's event will feature a presentation from Deloitte Access Economics on strategic changes occurring in our sector that will impact delivery of early childhood education and care services into the future. The AGM will also include the McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Award. So, don't forget to [RSVP for the ELAA AGM by 31 October](#).



## CEO'S REPORT



Deputy Federal Opposition Leader and Member for Corio, Richard Marles MP, visited Bond Street Kindergarten in Newtown during Early Learning Matters Week.

### Early Learning Matters Week

Thank you to all those services who supported Early Learning Matters Week (September 2 to 6) whether it was through hosting a federal parliamentarian at your service, posting images of your learning activities on social media, or just talking to parents about the week and what it means. The week was a great success with over 40 federal MPs and Senators, including members of cabinet and shadow ministers, visiting early years services all over Australia.

A special thanks to Bond Street Kindergarten in Newtown who worked with ELAA to host the Deputy Opposition Leader and Member for Corio, Richard Marles MP. Richard took a tour around the Kindergarten, chatting to staff about the centre's approach to learning, history, programs and the benefits of quality play-based early learning for children's development, preparedness for school, and success in adulthood.

As a part of the overall Early Learning Everyone Benefits national advocacy campaign, the primary purpose of Early Learning Matters Week is to ensure the good work that is being done by Australia's Early Learning sector – its critical importance to the future of our children and the economic and social prosperity of Australia – is clearly understood by our Federal politicians and the best way to do this is to show them first hand. If our politicians understand the work we do, its value, and the challenges our sector faces then this sets our sector up for better advocacy outcomes on things like funding, access and regulation policy into the future.

All the best,

David Worland, CEO ELAA

## ADVOCACY YOUR COLLECTIVE VOICE

### Sustainability of Early Years Management



The release of ELAA's report: [\*Early Years Management: Achieving a sustainable service system\*](#) has, we believe, been a catalyst for an additional focus by the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) regarding the pressures on EYMs to remain viable whilst delivering high quality kindergarten services to children. In June DET announced a one-off grant for EYMs to support them with the change management required for school readiness funding and to support the implementation of EarlyABLES.

ELAA has also commenced a project in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Training (DET) and Deloitte to better understand the increasing financial viability challenges faced by many not-for-profit early childhood service providers. Under ELAA's guidance, the project will see a number of providers working closely with Deloitte to model and better understand the cost drivers of delivering quality early childhood education and care.



#### ELAA is here to listen.

ELAA is pleased to represent the interests of our members and we welcome any questions or input by contacting us at [elaa@elaa.org.au](mailto:elaa@elaa.org.au)

### Portability of Long Service Leave Update

Portability of long service leave has continued to be a major focus of advocacy for ELAA. Despite extensive lobbying, the Long Service Benefits Portability Regulations 2019 were approved which means that early childhood education and care services will be brought into the Long Service Benefits Portability Scheme from 1 January 2020.

There will be both administrative and financial implications for employers linked to the new scheme which will affect any Victorian not-for-profit service provided by an entity that is a licensed children's service under the Children's Services Act 1996 or an approved provider under the Education and Care Services National Law (Victoria).

ELAA is advocating to the [Portability of Long Service Authority](#) to establish a dedicated early childhood education and care working group to address the many sector specific issues. We are also continuing to advocate for the inclusion of the private sector.





## FUNDED THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN – VICTORIA

*'...Research indicates that two years of a high-quality preschool program delivers better outcomes than one year, especially for children who are developmentally vulnerable...'*

*State of Early Learning in Australia 2017 p3*

Funded kindergarten programs are being expanded to three-year-olds across Victoria to add an extra year of play-based learning to children's education. This is a result of the Victorian Government committing almost \$5 billion to funded Three-year-old Kindergarten over the next ten years. This reform is the largest early childhood education investment in Victoria's history.

There will be a phased approach to delivering funded Three-year-old Kindergarten across Victoria. In 2020, kindergartens in the six local government areas of Buloke, Hindmarsh, Northern Grampians, South Gippsland, Strathbogie and Yarriambiack will be the first kindergartens in Victoria to be able to offer up to 15 hours of a funded program for three-year-olds.

In 2021, services in 15 local government areas (Alpine, Ararat, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Colac – Otway, Corangamite, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Hepburn, Indigo, Loddon, Murrindindi, Southern Grampians, Towong and West Wimmera) will be funded to deliver up to 15 hours of Three-year-old Kindergarten.

Funding will be provided to services offering a minimum of five hours in the 2020 and 2021 roll out areas. The funding will be based on the program hours offered. To receive full funding for 15 hours, services will need to offer 15 hours.

In 2022, three-year-old children across the rest of Victoria will be able to access five hours of funded Three-year-old Kindergarten. Funded hours will progressively scale up to 15 hours by 2029. →



# Kinder now starts at 3 because we know 2 years are better than 1



Funded programs will be available in both sessional kindergartens and long day care services. All funding currently provided to support four-year-old kindergarten programs will be extended to three-year-old kindergarten programs.

Early Start Kindergarten funding will continue to provide 15 hours a week of subsidised kindergarten for eligible children up until 2029.

A tertiary qualified early childhood teacher will be required to plan and implement funded three-year-old programs.

This reform represents a significant change for approved providers and

services. The Department of Education and Training (DET) and Early Learning Association of Australia (ELAA) are working together to provide support for services through resources and advice. Information on funded Three-year-old Kindergarten can be found at [the Department's website](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/3YOkinder).

Andre Jack (Kindergarten Expansion Support Lead) has been engaged by ELAA to work with the DET to support the implementation of this exciting initiative. If you require advice or have a question, you can contact Andre at [ajack@elaa.org.au](mailto:ajack@elaa.org.au) or on 9489 3500.

**The Victorian Government is introducing Three-year-old Kindergarten, giving children an extra year of learning, playing and making friends. It just adds up.**

The evidence is clear: quality early learning programs have the potential to change lives, and the earlier a child takes part, the better their outcomes.

The Victorian Government is investing almost \$5 billion over ten years so that children across the state will have access to two years of play-based kindergarten programs – starting at age three.

Both sessional and long day centres will be funded to deliver Three-year-old Kindergarten. This initiative is being progressively rolled out across Victoria, starting in 2020.

## BUILDING ON A STRONG FOUNDATION

This reform builds on the current practice of Victoria's skilled early childhood workforce to support the learning and development of three-year-olds. Making these programs a permanent part of the early childhood education system will help services to plan for the future and support their communities.

## INVESTING IN THE WORKFORCE

The Government is investing \$92.4 million to support early childhood teachers and educators through more professional development, mentoring and financial support to study and upskill. Employment incentives of up to \$9,000 are also available to attract early childhood teachers to work in the six local government areas delivering funded Three-year-old Kindergarten in 2020.

To find out more, visit

[www.education.vic.gov.au/3YOkinder](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/3YOkinder)

Or to apply for financial support to study or work in early childhood, visit:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships)



## FUNDED THREE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN ROLL OUT



### Can a Diploma Qualified Educator run a three-year-old program, once the funding for Three year-old Kindergarten is introduced?

Funded Three-year-old Kindergarten programs will be led by a tertiary qualified early childhood teacher as in the case for existing funded kindergarten programs in Victoria.

Teachers and educators sit at the heart of the

Three-year-old Kindergarten reform, which is why the Victorian Government will be investing substantially in the early childhood workforce. The Victorian Government is investing \$92.4 million over five years to support early childhood teachers and educators through more professional development, mentoring, and financial support and incentives to study and upskill.

Further information is available on [the Department's website](#).

*"This work will be bolstered by support from Early Learning Association Australia, which will work with educators and teachers to support them during the roll-out of this reform, and provide tools to support the delivery of high-quality pedagogical practice for three-year-old children."*

### What funding will be available for Three-year-old Kindergarten programs?

Three-year-old Kindergarten programs will have access to the same funding and supports that existing kindergarten programs do. Per child funding rates will be pro-rated based on the number of hours delivered.

Support funding, including School Readiness Funding, the Kindergarten Inclusion Support program, Pre school Field Officers and Pre purchased Places will be extended to support Three-year-old Kindergarten as it rolls out.

### How will services be supported throughout the roll-out?

The Department of Education and Training (DET) has committed to working in close partnership with the sector, community partners and families to deliver Three-year-old Kindergarten over the coming years.

The Department is continuing to set up dedicated early childhood improvement branches in all local DET Areas, with regional staff ready to support services at a local level.

This work will be bolstered by support from Early Learning Association Australia, which will work with educators and teachers to support them during the roll-out of this reform, and provide tools to support the delivery of high-quality practice for three-year-old children.

DET will be looking for feedback on its initial implementation plans through a number of different channels and wants to hear from all different parts of the sector. There will be opportunities for a range of views to be heard, including from early childhood professionals.

*For further information about delivering Three-year-old Kindergarten, please contact your Departmental regional office, or email [3YO.kindergarten@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:3YO.kindergarten@edumail.vic.gov.au)*

### If we currently offer more than 5 hours for three year old kindergarten, will the kindergarten receive funding for the hours offered?

Services in the 2020 and 2021 roll out areas will be funded to deliver up to 15 hours of Three-year-old Kindergarten.

In 2022, children in the rest of the state will have access to five hours of funded Three-year-old Kindergarten. Victorian Government funding will be capped at five hours, with the exception of services in the early roll-out areas. There will be a progressive increase of funded hours from 2023, resulting in funded 15-hour programs by 2029.



L-R: Hon. Martin Foley - Member for Albert Park; Ms Nina Taylor - Member for Southern Metropolitan; Mayor Dick Gross - City of Port Phillip; Mr Josh Burns MP - Member for Macnamara and Albert Park Preschool children proudly display the carbon neutral certifications sign that will sit in pride of place on Albert Park's fence.



### Introducing Australia's First Certified Carbon Neutral Kindergarten

ELAA member, Albert Park Preschool, have achieved their five-year dream to become the first certified carbon neutral early childhood service in Australia. The announcement came during Albert Park's recent celebration event to mark its recent attainment of an ACECQA 'Excellent' rating. They were also acknowledged as the 2019 joint recipient (along with the City of Port Phillip) of the Cities Power Partnership Community Engagement Award.

[Click to read the full story online](#)

### Worksafe Guidance on cots, highchairs and change tables

Early childhood workers risk injury when they bend, reach or twist to lift young children onto and off change tables and into and out of highchairs and cots. ELAA has been involved in developing a Guidance Note titled 'Lifting children in and out of cots and highchairs and helping them on and off change tables' which has now been published on the [Worksafe website](#).

### PolicyWorks Version 3 Update 2019 now available

The review and update of ELAA's [PolicyWorks Manual NQF](#) is complete and available.



PolicyWorks is a key ELAA resource that provides policy templates and information to assist providers to meet their legislative, regulatory and funding requirements. With over 30 templates available to help develop and update mandatory and best practice policies in line with the seven Quality Areas under the NQF, the manual is a must-have for all providers. Current ELAA members that have renewed for 2019/20 and previously purchased the resource can download the updated documents and templates via the [Members Area](#) of the ELAA website. Note: you will need your member login-in details). Members or non-members that haven't purchased the resource previously [can purchase it here](#).

### Save over \$500 on a life-saving defibrillator and get a free first aid kit

ELAA and Australian First Aid have teamed up to give early learning services access to a high-quality defibrillator kit that could save the life of a child or adult in your service. The Mediana A15 is an all-in-one defibrillator that can be used on adults and children. The unit can be easily set for an adult or child (with the flick of a switch) without having to change the pads which saves precious time in an emergency. The Kit includes everything required for a fully operational defibrillator in your service and the offer includes a highly visible, wall mounted cabinet for easy and immediate access in an emergency. When you purchase your Mediana A15 through the ELAA website you will save over \$500 on the Australian [First Aid Recommended Retail Price](#).



[CLICK](#) to check out the kit features video. [CLICK](#) for full details on the kit and how to order.



## MEMBER PROFILE

### YARRA GLEN PRESCHOOL

*Since commencing as the Preschool Play Centre in 1964, Yarra Glen Preschool has been managed by a volunteer parent Committee of Management. Given their small community, the Committee has had to tackle the recurring challenges of fluctuating enrolment numbers and committee stability. However, focused efforts on committee recruitment and greater engagement with the community, and through social media, has seen the service re-establish itself within the Yarra Glen community.*

Yarra Glen run a single three-year old program and one four-year old program over a four-day rotation. Educational Leader, Leanne Peterson, heads up both programs supported by two experienced and highly dedicated Educators – Kim MacLennan and Carol Cooper. A part-time Administration Assistant manages enrolments and finances, in conjunction with the Committee of Management. Lorin Lewin – Committee of Management President – tells us a bit about the service ...

### A year of reflection

In the past 12 months, our preschool has been through significant changes and challenges which sought the need to review our Statement of Philosophy, to lay the foundation and guide our approaches to teaching and learning.

We took a collaborative approach to collect feedback from all stakeholders, including staff, parents, committee and of course the children, on what they value in our pre-school. This information was collected in various forms through staff engagement, Parent Opinion Surveys and informal discussions with students. The feedback highlighted core values and a clear direction: at Yarra Glen Preschool, we believe that children learn through hands on experiences, allowing them to wonder, investigate and build on their own knowledge through:

- play and interest-based learning opportunities
- supportive and intentional learning programs
- open communication and strong partnerships with home and
- a well-developed sense of belonging.

### We've learnt a few things about fundraising and grant applications

Back in 2015, the Committee of Management began fundraising towards the redevelopment of the small foyer entry. Fundraising was going well, however funds were still a long way off reaching the amount needed for the redevelopment. It was in 2017, that our Grants Officer submitted an application for The Inclusive Kindergartens Facilities Program (IKFP) to fund a small upgrade to our foyer entry to meet the educational and social needs of children with disabilities. This application was successful and in mid-2019, we have finally completed our foyer redevelopment. It has been a lengthy but positive and rewarding learning experience for our preschool and the Committee. Some tips we've learnt for grant writing projects:

1. develop your committee member's expertise in grant writing through short courses
2. create sub-committees to oversee the application process and project execution
3. most importantly, compile a history of decisions, contacts, processes and storage of documents to handover to incoming members.

### We're proud of our community and the future we have made possible

We are proud at Yarra Glen Preschool of our strong sense of community and parent support. We have come together in a time of great need and have worked solidly as a team to achieve some wonderful outcomes for our Preschool and our children. We have worked together to support a smooth transition in staffing and have promoted heavily, boosting our enrolment numbers to remain viable. As a committee, we have built a strong foundation to lead us into 2020 and beyond.



Beautiful natural outdoor play space



Larger more open entry with disability access





# EXPLORING SCHOOL READINESS AND BEYOND

**Article courtesy of bestchance Child and Family Care**

On Friday 23rd August, over five hundred Early Years professionals convened at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to focus on one particular hot topic; School Readiness Funding. Hosted by bestchance Child and Family Care, the GET READY Conference was an opportunity for the Early Years sector to engage in a conversation about how to get the most from this exciting government initiative.

With an estimated one in five Victorian children considered 'developmentally vulnerable' when beginning primary school, the Early Years sector plays a critical part in improving the educational outcomes of young Victorians. We all know that children who do not receive adequate support in their early years are often unable to catch up to their peers. More importantly, the impact of a disadvantaged start to education is cumulative



and can last a lifetime, affecting job prospects, quality of life and self-esteem.

School Readiness Funding will provide the additional resources needed to ensure every child, regardless of circumstances, enters their primary education without disadvantage. This funding also provides Victorian services with the opportunity of using a multi-disciplinary approach to early education; engaging with allied health practitioners for their specialist expertise.

The GET READY conference included a keynote address from Kirsty Liljegren from the Reggio Emilia Australia Information Exchange, and six professional development workshops and seminars facilitated by industry experts.

"This was an amazing day for our sector, highlighting the positive impact this initiative will have on Early Childhood Education," said Tracey McKay, General Manager of Early Years at bestchance.

One of the highlights of the conference was a panel discussion on the concept of 'readiness' and whether it is children who should be ready for school or is it schools that need to be ready for children.

The members of the panel included psychologists, leaders in education, practitioners of early childhood intervention, and a representative from the Department of Education and Training. Much of the discussion revolved around the importance of relationship building and each expert brought with them a unique perspective on the subject.

John O'Shaughnessy, from the Department of Education and Training, spoke about the importance of finding commonality between Early Years and Primary Education. "We should have a shared approach to pedagogy, a shared language, shared systems and processes [so that] children transition better and engage more with their education. But this comes down to relationships," he said.







John discussed how vital it is to have Communities of Practice, bringing together educators from both Early Years and Primary Schools to share practice and learn from each other. “A Community of Practice is a group of people who know how to do something, but they come together to learn and share how it can be done better,” John explained.

Dr Shawna Lee of Seneca College, Toronto, spoke about engaging parents in the conversation on whether or not a child is ready to transition to school and discussed the complexities of building relationships with parents. “A lot of times, policies are written in a way that is unidirectional in terms of the parent partnership; we focus a lot on ‘what can parents do for us in this setting’. But if you truly value those relationships, it needs to be a bidirectional conversation,” Dr Lee said.

Another key takeaway came from Psychologist and Play Therapist, Angela North of The Cheshire School. “In a lot of my training

[as a Psychologist] we were required to do our own personal work – and with good reason. If we don’t have Emotional Intelligence ourselves, how on earth are we supposed to enhance that in other people, whether it be in children or adults,” Angela reasoned. “We’re asking [Educators] to manage conflict in the classroom, we’re asking them to be empathically reflecting with children, when maybe they don’t have that developed in themselves.”

In addition to the presentations, panel and workshops, the GET READY Conference also included the GET READY Exhibition. This exhibition provided a unique opportunity for Early Years professionals to engage face-to-face with some of the evidence-informed resources and supports that are available on the School Readiness Funding menu. The exhibition was a fantastic networking opportunity and armed educators and managers with the information necessary to plan for the use of their funding.

## ELAA Professional Development

There is just one more ELAA professional development session remaining for 2019 and it features one of the early learning sector’s most popular presenters ...

### **Renewing the educational program and practice (QA1) from a team perspective**

The Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) reports tell us that Quality Area 1 (QA1) continues to challenge and stretch teams working in early childhood education and care settings. This session is for everyone in your team – teachers, educators and educational leaders.

The session will focus on providing new ideas and tools for looking at QA1 through a team lens, enabling you to approach the cycle of planning and critical reflection from a whole team perspective.

The session will answer the critical questions: What does critical reflection mean to our team? and What does it currently look like? This event will also include a workshop where you will have the opportunity to work with strategies that identify team strengths – so you can create a plan to simplify and strengthen your planning cycle and reflection in your service.

After registering, keep an eye on your email as there will be a unique opportunity to co-construct the learning in this session to ensure it meets your learning needs!



Anthony Semann is one of the directors and founders at Semann and Slattery. For the past 16 years he has worked as a researcher, consultant, and manager in a wide range of organisations in Australia and overseas. Anthony challenges organisations and people to reflect on how their approaches to communication, leadership, diversity, values, relationships and workplace culture affect the services, businesses and community. Anthony is currently completing a PhD at Macquarie University and exploring the nexus between leadership and courage.

**LINKS TO APST:** Knowledge 1.2, 2.3 Practice 3.1, 3.2, 3.6 Engagement 6.2, 6.3, 7.4 **LINKS TO NQS:** QA1 QA5

**PRESENTER:** Anthony Semann

**DATE:** November 8, 2019 **TIME:** 9am-5pm

**VENUE:** Darebin North East Community Hub  
35 Copernicus Crescent, Bundoora

[\*\*REGISTER HERE\*\*](#)



# EXCELLENCE IN ROAD SAFETY EDUCATION HAPPENS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE A SERVICE



Road Safety Education is important for children and families across all parts of Australia, not just urban centres. So, it was especially pleasing that this year's recipient of the Starting Out Safely Road Safety Education Award, Cooinda Preschool, is located in the western Victorian town of Stawell.

**“W**e have always taken the children out into the community and practised road safety,” says Cooinda teacher, Kathryn Richards. “The (Starting Out Safely) Professional Development session we participated in with Catherine Hydon in Stawell and later at the ELAA conference showed us how we could extend our approach and validated what we were already doing. It highlighted that we could take the children out more regularly and how we could document all of our road safety experiences easily in our curriculum.

“This year’s ThingleToodle session was a highlight. Prior to the excursion we provided links to the songs to families which helped to embed the learning at home too.”

## **Why is Road Safety Education (RSE) important to the staff, children, and families at Cooinda?**

“We are always engaging in community events like plays, concerts and events at the local primary schools; visiting the nursing home; and exploring and removing rubbish from local bush reserves and streets. The children’s awareness in Road Safety Education supports our ability to do so successfully and then embeds the theory into practise.”

## **How does Cooinda go about embedding RSE into its curriculum?**

“Because we engage with the immediate community regularly it enables the children to practise holding hands, Stop, Look, Listen and Think. They are also encouraged to assist in the development of risk assessments for each excursion. We discuss the activities, what the dangers may be and how can we reduce those dangers. And within the Preschool, the children are involved in listening to stories, completing puzzles, participating in dramatic play with the ThingleToodle car mat and cars.

“Also, our bike education program has grown from a ride around the block in 2019 to involving the Bike Education Educators from Northern Grampians Shire running an information session at Cooinda and then two practical sessions at the local school. We also have a new pathway in the front garden which has enabled practical opportunities for the children to practise their bicycle skills such as wearing helmets, stopping at pedestrian crossings, and following the signs. Bike education has been an important focus as we have several children who ride to Cooinda on a regular basis and cover quite a distance.”





Kathryn Richards accepts the award on behalf of Cooina Kindergarten including a 'Big Cheque' from Roger Chao (VicRoads) and Starting Out Safely program 'super stars' Professor Eric Sperment and ThingleToodle



### Have your staff seen changes in their children's knowledge, confidence etc. when it comes to road safety?

'We see the children helping volunteers cross the road and letting them know what they need to do – we even hear the children commenting if someone doesn't have a hi-vis vest on during walking excursions!'

### How does Cooinda engage families in Road Safety Education?

"Families are encouraged to join in excursions and incursions like the ThingleToodle visits. So, when we go over road safety rules before an excursion many of our parents are often hearing the same messages that their children hear, receive the same visual prompts as those given to their children, and wear hi-vis vests as well.

"We also have a road safety bag that families can access which includes the story 'Click Clack', the seat belt restraints DVD; ThingleToodle jigsaw puzzle and ThingleToodle songs. Some families are now commenting that their child is more willing to hold hands as well as Stop Look Listen and Think when they cross the roads."

### Do you have any plans to further develop your RSE program at Cooinda?

"Every year is different as the children have different needs and interests – our future plans for the development of RSE will reflect this, although we are planning a parent information session on bike safety and the use of car restraints. We're also looking to provide opportunities to walk across the pedestrian (zebra) crossing in town and maybe go further afield to Ararat to walk across roads at traffic lights."

## Do you want to step up Road Safety Education at your early learning service? ELAA can help to make it happen.

We have delivered the Starting Out Safely Road Safety Education Program on behalf of Vic Roads since 2011. The program has been developed through evidence-based research, in collaboration with early childhood experts. It works with children, parents, carers and early childhood educators to guide children's learning in being and becoming safe, independent road users.

The program differs from other Australian states in that it takes a holistic approach to Road Safety Education. It not only engages children directly through dedicated 'ThingleToodle' sessions at their preschool and care centres, but also provides professional development for early childhood educators. This equips educators to prepare children for the road safety sessions and to embed ongoing Road Safety Education in centres.

The Starting Out Safely program website [childroadsafety.org.au](http://childroadsafety.org.au) has plenty of resources to help you develop a best-practice Road Safety Education program for your service including:

- RSE resources and information for educators
- information on the professional development program and ThingleToodle incursions
- RSE policies for services
- RSE information for families
- information on choosing and using child car seats (in 22 languages and 10 audio versions)
- transportation of children with additional needs
- link to the Car Seats Save Lives website including Victoria's latest video for parents and carers
- links to research and publications.

Further enquiries about the Starting Out Safely Program may be directed to ELAA's RSE team at [rse@elaa.org.au](mailto:rse@elaa.org.au)





*“The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach three or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.”*

# SUMMER IS COMING SO TIME TO GET YOUR SUN PROTECTION POLICY RIGHT

*Article courtesy of the Cancer Council Victoria*



## Why

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. However skin cancer is one of the most preventable cancers. Young children are particularly vulnerable to UV damage. Your policy should include why you have committed to protecting your service's community from too much UV.

## When

Your sun protection policy should include when sun protection measures are used in your area. UV varies in intensity at different times of the day across the year and across the country. If you're located in the north of Australia, UV is high every day of the year! In the very southern regions, UV levels typically start to rise from around August/September. It is best to check the local daily sun protection times to be sure you are using sun protection when you need to. The sun protection times are a forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for the time of day UV levels are forecast to reach three or higher. At these levels, sun protection is recommended for all skin types.

**R**egulation 168 of the [Education and Care Services National Regulations](#) relates to policies and procedures – in particular a sun protection policy. No wonder Sid likes it so much!

Is your sun protection policy current and evidence-based? Does it follow expert recommendations? Is it available for all families and staff?

Your service's sun protection policy is an essential document outlining how best to protect all children and staff from the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation. Unlike the sun's heat and sunlight, UV can't be seen or felt. It's the part of the sun that can affect the DNA and lead to skin damage, sunburn and skin cancer.

## Sun protection times are available via:

- the free [SunSmart app](#)
- the free [SunSmart widget](#) (add it to your service's website)
- the Bureau of Meteorology website's [UV and sun protection page](#)
- [MyUV](#)







## What

Make sure your policy includes what sun protection measures your service uses during the sun protection times.

1. **SLIP** on clothing that covers as much skin as possible. Singlet and sleeveless tops don't protect the skin.
2. **SLOP** on SPF30 (or higher), broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen. Monitor the expiry date and store sunscreen below 30 degrees. Apply sunscreen to any parts of skin not covered with clothing about 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours, or more often if it has been wiped or washed off. Remember sunscreen is not a suit of armour and should only be used with other sun protection measures. The widespread use of sunscreen on babies under six months is not recommended.
3. **SLAP** on a wide-brimmed, bucket or legionnaire hat that shades the face, neck and ears. Caps and visors do not provide enough protection.
4. **SEEK** shade (Regulation 114). UV reaches us directly from the sun and it can also be scattered by particles in the air and reflected off surfaces such as brick, concrete, glass, sand and water. More natural, rough and dark-coloured surfaces reflect less UV. Consider the different UV reflective surfaces around the outdoor play space and try to use a combination of natural, built and temporary shade. Research shows that spacious natural environments (Regulation 113) with trees, shrubbery and broken ground promotes more physical activity and provides better sun protection.
5. **SLIDE** on wrap-around sunglasses (labelled AS1067) if practical.



For policy help, resources or to join Cancer Council's free SunSmart Early Childhood Program visit [cancer.org.au](http://cancer.org.au) or call 13 11 20.

Need information in another language? Call 13 14 50 and ask to be connected to Cancer Council in your language.



EARLY  
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The voice for parents and service providers

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# ELAA's Annual General Meeting

## Thursday 14 November 2019

## Save the date

*The ELAA Board and staff are delighted to invite members, parent volunteers and colleagues from across the early learning sector to the 2019 ELAA AGM*

The annual McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards will once again be part of the night. We will be celebrating the difference that parent volunteers make to early childhood services and encourage ELAA member services to nominate their best volunteers for this award! Nominations open on 9 September 2019.

**When:** Registration from 6.30pm for a 7pm start  
Thursday 14 November 2019

**Where:** Collingwood Town Hall, Ballroom  
140 Hoddle Street, Collingwood

**Cost:** Gold coin donation – towards the Early Childhood Education Foundation  
Refreshments will be served.  
Please RSVP via [www.elaa.org.au/event/elaa-agm-2019](http://www.elaa.org.au/event/elaa-agm-2019) by 31 October 2019.





# MCARTHUR EARLY CHILDHOOD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2019

**C**elebrate a volunteer that makes a real difference to your early learning community.

ELAA and our preferred recruitment partner, McArthur, are proud to present the 2019 McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Celebrate the difference that volunteers make to your early learning service by nominating a special someone for this year's Awards. They may have turned a great idea into reality, provided specialist skills, or simply put in countless hours to help get things done. Whatever their contribution, make sure your best volunteers are recognised.

The winner of the McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards will receive a \$250 book voucher for their service. Other finalists will each receive a \$75 book voucher in recognition of their significant contributions.

The awards will be presented at the ELAA Annual General Meeting at the Collingwood Town Hall on Thursday, 14 November 2019.

Note: nominations are only open to volunteers from current ELAA member early years services.

## McARTHUR EARLY CHILDHOOD VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2017

#### Celebrate a volunteer that makes a real difference

ELAA and our preferred recruitment partner, McArthur, are proud to present the 2017 McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards. Celebrate the difference that volunteers make to your early learning service by nominating a special someone for this year's Awards. They may have turned a 'great idea' into a reality, provided specialist skills, or simply put in countless hours to help get things done. Whatever their contribution, make sure your best volunteers are recognised.

#### Nominate someone who has made a real difference to your early childhood community.

The winner of the McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards will receive a \$250 book voucher and a \$250 book voucher for their service. Other finalists will each receive a \$75 book voucher in recognition of their significant contributions.

#### The awards will be presented at the ELAA Annual General Meeting

Venue Melbourne Town Hall, Yarra Room, 90-130 Swanston Street, Melbourne

Date Thursday 26 October 2017

Time 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start

Turn over page, fill out the provided nomination form and forward by COB Friday 13 October 2017 to [jgardener@elaa.org.au](mailto:jgardener@elaa.org.au) or post to McArthur Early Childhood Volunteer of the Year Awards, ELAA, PO Box 1246, Collingwood Vic 3066.

McArthur

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Early Learning Association Australia  
Phone 03 9489 3500 Fax 03 9486 4226 Rural 1300 730 119  
Email [elaa@elaa.org.au](mailto:elaa@elaa.org.au) Web [www.elaa.org.au](http://www.elaa.org.au)

To apply: complete the nomination form and forward by COB Friday, 17 October 2019 to [jthompson@elaa.org.au](mailto:jthompson@elaa.org.au)

**[CLICK TO DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM](#)**





*“We’re aware that people are busy,” said Dr Savage. “That’s why we are offering a \$25 gift card for anyone who participates in an interview or focus group.”*

## Participants Sought for Study of Providers’ Experiences with No Jab No Play

*Article courtesy of Dr Katie Atwell from the University of Western Australia*

University of Western Australia researchers are conducting a national three-year project to explore childcare providers’ experiences of No Jab, No Play policies.

Dr Katie Attwell, a vaccination policy expert, is leading the study with Dr Glenn Savage, an education policy expert. The research team will

examine policies in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

“We are exploring the differences between the states’ policies,” said Dr Attwell. “We are particularly interested in the experiences of those operating early childhood education centres. We’d like to understand which state’s policy is best, and why.”

Victoria’s immunisation rates have never been higher, and are currently sitting at 95.67% for five-year-old children. This indicates the policy is contributing to “community protection”. High coverage means that diseases are unlikely to penetrate the population. “However,” said Dr Attwell, “We don’t yet know what this has meant for those responsible for implementing the policy in the early education setting.”

The study has several phases. The team has almost finished interviewing policymakers and stakeholders involved in designing and implementing the policies in each state.

“Next, we are speaking to childcare

providers themselves,” said Dr Savage. “We will be conducting open-ended interviews and focus groups to hear about their experiences.” The team will use this data to design a survey of the entire early learning sector in each state. Findings will be shared with state governments with the aim of improving the policies.

Dr Attwell will be travelling to Melbourne in early December to conduct the research. “I’m really looking forward to meeting people who have worked with this policy and hearing their views,” she said. “I’m also able to travel out to regional Victoria if providers there would like to participate. And there is the possibility of video interviews as well.”

“We’re aware that people are busy,” said Dr Savage. “That’s why we are offering a \$25 gift card for anyone who participates in an interview or focus group.”

If you would like to speak to Dr Katie Attwell about your experiences with No Jab, No Play, please email [katie.attwell@uwa.edu.au](mailto:katie.attwell@uwa.edu.au) to schedule an interview.





*Article courtesy of Robyn Papworth – Exercise Physiologist and Developmental Educator*

## DECLINING MOTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN OUR CHILDREN

Preschool teachers around Australia are sharing their concerns about children's declining motor skill development.

In my role as an Exercise Physiologist I am seeing more children who are struggling with the fundamental movement skills of rolling in both directions, balancing on one foot, jumping with both feet, throwing and catching a large ball, and tearing a piece of paper without using palmar grip.

You may ask; why are we concerned about gross motor skills more than other areas of learning?

Please let me briefly explain. One of the areas of the brain that controls a child's gross motor movement is called the cerebellum. The cerebellum is stimulated when children jump, walk, catch a ball, and balance on one foot. The cerebellum has also been linked with emotion regulation and executive function.

So, if children are sitting more and moving their bodies less, one can assume the impact that this sedentary behaviour may be having

on a child's emotions, problem solving, and working memory.

To add to the importance of gross motor development, we need to consider the role that gross motor development plays in fine motor skills. To develop the fine motor skills that are needed for a child to open the zip of their own bag, tie their shoe laces, and draw a large picture, the child needs to have developed the gross motor skill of crossing the

midline. Crossing the midline can be promoted by encouraging children to tap their opposite hand to knee, or walk in a criss-cross walking pattern as shown in the photo.

In addition, to be able to sit for extended periods of time in a cross-legged position during group time, a child needs to have developed the necessary amount of core strength to maintain that position against gravity.







### TIP

To support children's gross motor development, simply set up masking tape lines on the floor and encourage children to jump from one line to the other with both feet. Also, add crossing the midline and core strength activities in to the pre-schooler's morning routine to provide each child with a strong motor development foundation.

#### For more tips and strategies

come and say hi to Robyn at [www.playmoveimprove.com.au](http://www.playmoveimprove.com.au) or [robyn@playmoveimprove.com.au](mailto:robyn@playmoveimprove.com.au)

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Since 1997 the Early Childhood Education Foundation has helped children from families experiencing financial difficulties to access a funded kindergarten program and enjoy the same opportunities to succeed in life as any other child. You can make a difference to a child's future by donating to the Foundation.

#### HOW TO DONATE

The ECEF contributes approximately \$380 per term to a recipient's kindergarten fees – allowing a child to attend at little or no cost.

All contributions will be issued with a receipt and donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

If you would like to donate please:

1. Download the donation form from [elaa.org.au/ecf](http://elaa.org.au/ecf)
2. Print out and complete the form
3. Return the form via post or email (see form for address details).

Alternatively, call ELAA on 03 9489 3500.

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To find out more call ELAA on 03 9489 3500

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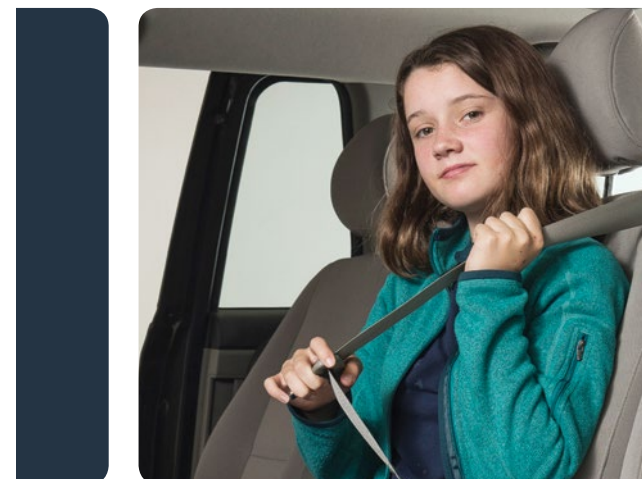
## Child Car Seats Save Lives

Road Trauma is still the number one killer of Australian children and around 3000 are seriously injured each year on our roads. Choosing the right child car seat and using it correctly can make children some of the safest occupants in your car.

### Child car seats – it's all about size, not age

The law in Australia states that all children under the age of 7 years old must use a child restraint when travelling in a car. Research shows that it is a child's height, not age that determines when a child is safe to use an adult seat belt.

**Remember the law is just the minimum and we can do far more than just the minimum to keep our children safe.**



### Go to [www.carseatssavelives.com.au](http://www.carseatssavelives.com.au) and take the 'five-step test'

To find out if it's safe for your child to be in an adult seatbelt take the 'Five-Step Test' by visiting [www.carseatssavelives.com.au](http://www.carseatssavelives.com.au) here you can also watch ELAA's new video 'Child Restraints and Booster Seats – What You Need to Know' and access more essential information on keeping your child safe in your car.

ELAA delivers the Victorian Government's early childhood road safety education program, Starting Out Safely, on behalf of VicRoads. Contact the RSE team on (03) 9489 3500 or email [rse@elaa.org.au](mailto:rse@elaa.org.au)



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