



**Early Childhood  
Australia**

A voice for young children

Early Childhood Australia National Conference

# Consulting the Compass

DEFINING DIRECTIONS

The Early Childhood Australia Conference is a national conference attended by practitioners, academics, professionals and policy-makers in the field of early years education and care. In 2010 the conference attracted over 1200 delegates from Australia and overseas.

3–6 **October** 2012

**PERTH CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE**

Application to **present**



# Conference themes and streams

The conference title, *Consulting the Compass—Defining Directions* is a timely one as the early childhood sector in Australia undergoes a time of renewal that defines our future directions and re-shapes our professional identity.

At the forefront of this time of change are new frameworks and curriculum documents. The National Quality Framework incorporates a new, combined compliance and quality assurance system underpinned by the principle of continuous improvement. The *Early Years Learning Framework*, the Australian Curriculum and the Framework for School Age Care are challenging early childhood educators to focus their gaze on the best outcomes for children.

At the centre of our compass are children and this conference is a great opportunity to come together and reflect on how far we have progressed in recognising children as competent, engaged learners and in supporting them to be the best they can be. It is also a time to think together about future directions as we build capacity across the sector.

The conference title will be addressed through the conference themes, which are arranged around the four points of the compass. The points of the compass provide a structure for rethinking our practice, generating change in the best interests of children and mapping our journey together across the diverse contexts in which we work.

## Networking

This theme will explore the strengths and complexities of networking at the individual, setting and system levels. Networking underpins learning communities and creates occasions for individuals, or groups, to come together to share, reflect, and relate with others in creating new opportunities beyond our usual horizons or building on existing opportunities.

## Sustainability

Sustainable practices and relationships are two ways in which sustainability can be explored. The notion of sustainable practices within our environments and in our work is not new. Our role of assisting children to become global citizens raises challenges and demands our attention, as do the issues of sustaining educators in times of change.

## Engagement

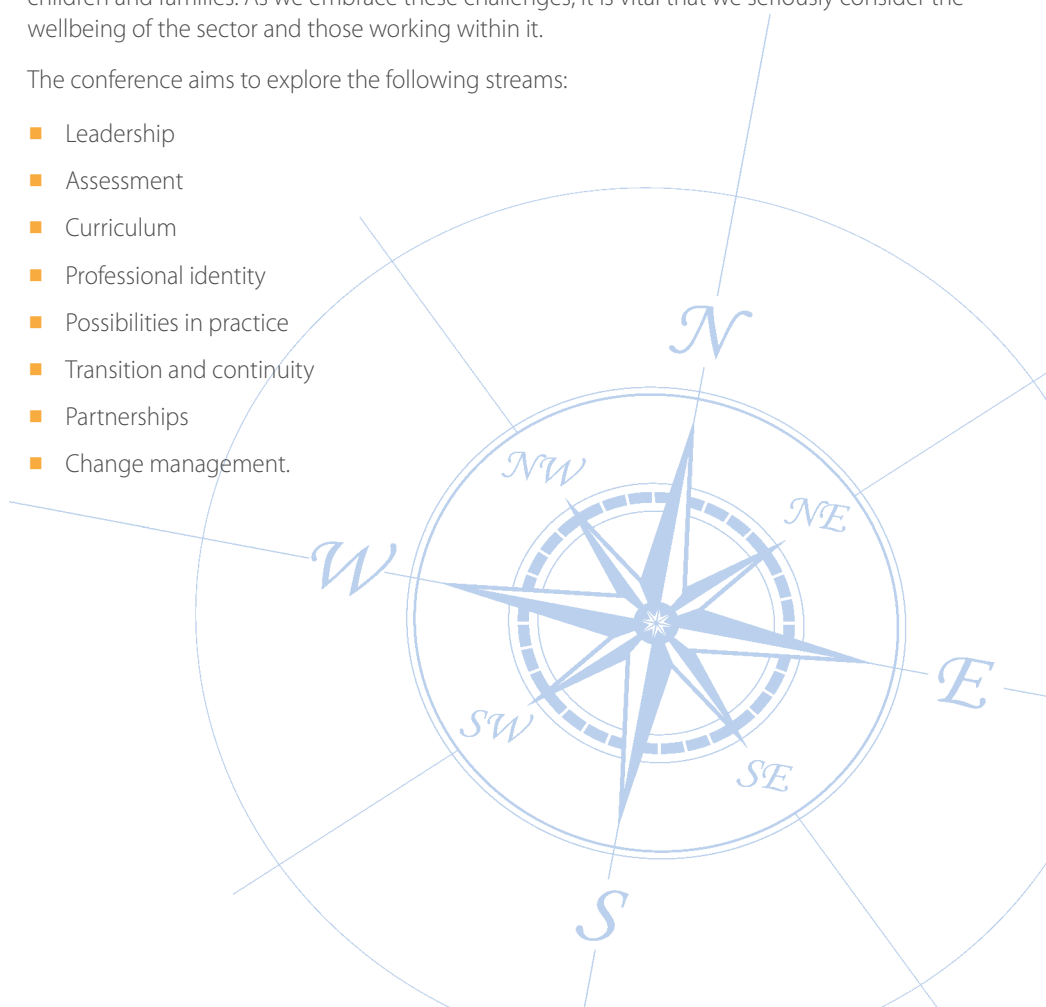
At this exciting time in early childhood it is essential that educators are fully engaged with the new frameworks and curriculum documents. These offer wonderful opportunities to take part in ongoing debate and discussion around the latest research in early childhood as educators strive to implement these approaches in their practice. Promoting engagement in children's learning is paramount to these approaches. The challenges of engaging and partnering with children, families and others, both within and across disciplines, offer amazing opportunities for the sector.

## Wellbeing

The wellbeing of children, families, communities and those who work with them is paramount to both Australia's future and to the global future. Not only must the wellbeing of children and families be central to our thinking but also the wellbeing of all those working with children and families. As we embrace these challenges, it is vital that we seriously consider the wellbeing of the sector and those working within it.

The conference aims to explore the following streams:

- Leadership
- Assessment
- Curriculum
- Professional identity
- Possibilities in practice
- Transition and continuity
- Partnerships
- Change management.



# Essential information

## Session types

Applications to present should fit into one of the session types outlined below.

- *Individual paper presentation:* 45 minutes (including discussion). Individual papers will be grouped according to the themes and/or streams.
- *Workshop session:* 45 minutes (an interactive discussion with a practical focus).
- *Self-organised symposium:* 90 minutes. Groups may organise up to three papers and a facilitator around one of the conference themes and/or streams. (For a self-organised symposium, please include the theme of the symposium in your application, one abstract for each of the papers, the presenters' names and the main contact author.)
- *Poster session:* Designated times will be determined during the conference for authors to present their posters.
  - » The maximum size for posters is 1.2m (h) x 1.0m (w).
  - » The title and authors should be clearly indicated at the top of the poster. Large letters should be used for the title (equivalent to 80-point font or larger).
  - » All text on the poster should be legible from a distance of one metre. It is suggested that headings be in a minimum of 30-point font and that the body text be in a minimum of 24-point font.
  - » Material arranged in columns is easier to read than material arranged in rows.
  - » Presenters are encouraged to include visual aids (for example, images, flow charts and graphic representations of data) in their posters.
  - » Posters should be printed on poster paper or assembled on light cardboard.
  - » We suggest that presenters bring a minimum of 20 copies of a one-page handout based on their poster.

## Publication of papers

All presentations and full papers will be published on the conference website (with agreement of authors) during the conference. Presentations will be converted to PDF format as they are—presentations will not be edited.

Some presentations and papers may also be separately published (with agreement of authors) by Early Childhood Australia in the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* or *Every Child* magazine. These will be independently refereed according to the publications' procedures.

## Proposed audiovisual requirements

PowerPoint facilities (data projectors, computers and screens) will be available for presenters. The conference will be networked, which means that your presentation will be available in the workshop room from a central location. You will need to provide us with your full and final electronic presentation by **14 September 2012** to ensure that your presentation is compatible with the system that will be used.

## Review process

The Conference Program Committee will review all proposals submitted to the conference for presentation.

All applications to present will be reviewed by at least two members of the Conference Program Committee. These reviews will not be blind reviews. A third reviewer may be sought if consensus about the initial review is not reached.

All applications to present will be assessed to ensure the quality and relevance of the presentations. This will be done in accordance with ECA selection criteria.

## If you are selected to present, you agree to the following:

- With your permission your presentation may be recorded (audio or visual) and may be used, for example, on the ECA website to be downloaded by interested people.
- Acknowledgement of the Indigenous people in the area and the country on which the conference is held at the start of your presentation/workshop. These words will be provided for you at the conference.
- Availability for some media comment about the conference.
- Presenters must be available to speak at any time during the conference.
- Presenters may be asked to repeat their session if it proves to be popular.

## Presenter registration

A condition of being able to present a session is that presenters **must** register for the day on which they are presenting at the conference. If presenters wish to stay for the whole conference, they must register for the full three days. Registration and payment must be received by **31 August 2012**. All presenters will receive the Early Childhood Australia (ECA) member discount rate for full conference registration.

Abstracts will be withdrawn from the conference program if registration and payment are not received by **31 August 2012**.

# Terms of application

## Instructions for completion of application:

- All fields must be completed.
- Applications must be submitted by **29 February 2012**.
- Postal address, contact number and email address is for the **main contact author only**.
- Abstract must be no more than 300 words, with a biography of no more than 75 words. **NB:** If abstracts or biographies are over the set word limits, they will be returned to you for altering.
- All abstracts and biographies received will undergo editing before being printed in the conference program.
- Applications must address the selection criteria.

Applications must be completed online at: [www.eacaconference.com.au/call\\_for\\_papers.html](http://www.eacaconference.com.au/call_for_papers.html)  
(Applications received in any other way, including hard copy, will not be accepted.)

**Before you complete the application to present, please ensure you have read and understood this information.**

If you have any questions, please contact the conference secretariat for more information on:  
**T:** 02 6242 1800 or **E:** [conference@earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:conference@earlychildhood.org.au)

ITEM	DEADLINE
Submission of application to present	29 February 2012
Review by program committee and authors notified of acceptance	6 April 2012
Provision of the final details of your AV requirements and desired room set-up	29 June 2012
Draft Program on website	27 July 2012
Speaker registration deadline	31 August 2012
Submission of the final version of your PowerPoint/electronic presentation/s	14 September 2012
Submission of full paper and short biography for inclusion on conference website	14 September 2012

## Contact information

For more information, please contact the Conference Secretariat at:  
Early Childhood Australia, PO Box 86, Deakin West ACT 2600

**T:** 02 6242 1800 **F:** 02 6242 1818

**E:** [conference@earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:conference@earlychildhood.org.au) **W:** [www.eacaconference.com.au](http://www.eacaconference.com.au)

**NEW!!** Information about the AJEC Research Symposium in leaflet attached.

# Selection criteria

The assessment of applications to present is a two-step process:

1. Each application will be assessed against the following criteria:

## Relevance

Relevance to the conference theme and streams.

## Clarity

Abstracts should have a clear purpose, using concise language which outlines the ideas and concepts to be presented.

## Innovation/originality

Applications to present should develop existing concepts or introduce new information or ideas. They should not merely repeat information already widely known.

## Audience relevance and appeal

Applications to present should clearly indicate cross-sectoral relevance and/or sector-specific relevance and outline their interest/appeal to the audience.

## Free of commercial interest

Any paper that is selling or promoting a particular product will not be accepted.

Research papers should include:

- the aims of the project or research questions and/or focus of inquiry where applicable
- research methods and/or analytical and/or theoretical framework
- research findings and/or contribution to the field.

2. Applications which meet the criteria of the first stage are considered as a group, to ensure an overall balance of:

- conference themes and streams
- research and practice
- presentation styles and the nature of the presentation
- audience appeal and relevance.