Application to present

Early Childhood Australia
A voice for young children

EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2019

FROM VISION TO ACTION

The Early Childhood Australia National Conference provides a national platform for professional discourse relevant to the rights, wellbeing and early education of young children (birth to the age of eight years). It is attended by early childhood educators, teachers, service leaders and executives as well as policy-makers, program administrators, academics, researchers and those involved in pre-qualification training and ongoing professional development. In 2018, the conference attracted more than 2000 delegates from Australia and overseas.

25–28 September 2019 Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

CLICK HERE FOR SUBMISSION PROCESS

From vision to action is the theme for Early Childhood Australia's (ECA) National Conference, to be held in Hobart, Tasmania, from 25–28 September 2019. The 2019 conference will expand on ECA's strategic priorities to progress its vision of 'Every young child is thriving and learning'.

This conference will explore current and emerging practice to enhance young children's experiences across the spectrum of service and education settings that they attend. This includes early childhood education and care (ECEC) as well as the early years of school, outside school hours care and child/parent programs such as playgroups and family centres. The conference will engage participants in a discourse on rights, wellbeing and quality improvement to facilitate deep reflective thinking to enhance ongoing professional learning and development.

CONFERENCE
THEMES

Conference presentations will be aligned to one or more of the following areas of inquiry:

Speak up for children

Can you articulate, through research or good practice, how professionals and collaborators give young children and their families a voice? How do we represent their rights and interests, and how do we know that we are being authentic in doing so—both within early childhood settings and on the community or societal level? Let's share ideas and examples of how we can collaborate to amplify the voice of children and ensure that they have agency in our work.

Build social capital

It is not enough that only early childhood experts understand the importance of the early years. We also need to educate the community and key decision-makers so that Australian society can support young children to thrive. The needs of young children must be recognised and accommodated across layers of government and the diversity of human service systems. Let's explore this: How can we build social capital for young children through education and through community engagement? What lessons have we learnt that will help others be more effective?

Quality early education

Do we have a shared understanding of 'quality' in children's services? How do we measure quality and how do we know that we are improving quality? Presentations will include research and action research related to quality improvement approaches, such as new and emerging tools and practices. Let's share insights that will help build understanding and promote quality improvement across settings and service types—including playgroups, family centres, family day care, early education services, preschool/kindergarten, the early years of school and outside school hours care services.

Professional learning

Being a member of a profession is an indicator of integrity, ethics, trust and expertise. It means that we adhere to ethical standards and possess special knowledge and skills derived from research, education and training at a high level. It is expected that professionals continue learning and building a shared knowledge base throughout their career. Let's focus on the latest trends in continuing professional learning and examples of innovation, research and exemplar practice in training and mentoring. You will also be invited to consider how you engage with ECA's *Code of Ethics* and how it influences your professional practice.

Inspiring leadership and effective governance

Good governance and strong leadership are essential for long-term success in any organisation, including the early childhood sector overall. Are we fostering the leaders who will be needed for early childhood education to be effective and sustainable into the future? Do we have the governance structures right—in relation to service delivery as well as sector advocacy and development of the profession? Engage in a discussion with peers and experts about driving and restraining forces affecting our capability, as a sector and a profession, while also developing your own skills and knowledge in these critical areas.

ESSENTIAL
INFORMATION

Applicants wishing to present will need to identify which one of the five areas of inquiry their presentation contributes to most directly:

1. Speak up for children

2. Build social capital

3. Quality early education

4. Professional learning

5. Inspiring leadership and effective governance

Applicants will be asked to identify the audience for their presentation—who is most likely to benefit. For example, presentations might target one or more of the following groups or individuals, including but not limited to:

- educators and teachers working with infants and children under the age of three years

- educators and teachers delivering preschool programs to three- to five-year-old children

- educational or pedagogical leaders in early childhood services and schools

- family support workers or parent educators

- service or school leaders and executives with managerial responsibilities

- providers of pre-qualification training and/or ongoing professional development

- those involved in quality improvement or regulation/assessment

- researchers, academics and thought leaders

- policy-makers and program administrators within government agencies.

The application process will ask about the experience of the presenter(s) and whether the content has been presented elsewhere. Please understand that this will help us to balance the program with a mix of new and known content. It will also help us to meet our aim of delivering consistent, high-quality presentations while also giving some new or inexperienced presenters an opportunity to gain experience.

Session types

1. Oral presentation

Oral presentations will last 45 minutes, including time for attendees to ask questions or engage in a discussion with the presenter(s). ECA encourages presenters to deliver their presentation in an interactive way. There will be a 10-minute room change opportunity between sessions.

Presenters may be asked to present twice during the conference if their session proves to be very popular.

2. Poster presentation

A designated 15-minute time slot will be determined during the conference for authors to present their posters. All poster presentations must follow a standard format and adhere to the following criteria:

Dimensions and layout

- The maximum size allowed for posters is 1.2 metres (h) x 1.0 metre (w).

- The title and author names need to be clearly indicated at the top of the poster. Large letters are to be used for the title (equivalent to 80-point font size or larger).

- All text on the poster is to be legible from a distance of one metre. It is suggested that headings be a minimum of 30-point font size and that the body text be a minimum of 24-point font size.

- Posters are to be either printed on poster paper or assembled on light cardboard.

Suggestions to consider

- Use of columns is recommended, as 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, graphic representations of data) in their posters.

A template to assist with the preparation of poster design is available from: www.earlychildhoodaustralia. org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Presentation-Poster-Layout.pdf

Use of a digital augmented reality app

Poster presenters are encouraged to display a poster and use digital augmentation software as part of their presentation. ECA recommends using HP Reveal, which can be downloaded from Google Play or the App Store.

Presenters opting to use the app will be required to display signage (A4) or hand out instructions to conference attendees on how to use their smartphones or devices to interact with the poster.

Presenter registration

A condition of being able to present is that all presenters must register for the day on which they are presenting at the conference. If presenters wish to stay for the whole conference, payment needs to be made for the full three days. All presenters will receive the ECA member discount rate for full conference registration. A maximum of three (3) presenters per paper will be allowed to register and participate at the discounted rate.

If registration confirmation and payment are not received by 25 July 2019, abstracts will be withdrawn from the conference program.

Contact information

For more information, please contact:

Early Childhood Australia Conference Office
P: 02 6242 1800
E: conference@earlychildhood.org.au
W: www.ecaconference.com.au

Selection criteria

Key focus

Applications must focus on:

- relevance to at least one of the conference themes

- examples of emerging or exemplar practice that enhance children's experiences

- research, action research or extension of existing thinking

- relevance to the target audience, understanding that delegates attending the session may come from across Australia and overseas.

Required inclusions

Applicants must ensure that their research papers:

- specify the aims of the project or research questions and/or focus of inquiry, where applicable

- outline research methods and/or analytical and/or theoretical framework in brief

- have a strong emphasis on research findings and/or translation to practice and contribution to the professional practice of the target audience.

Free of commercial interest

Applicants must confirm that their papers are free of commercial interest. Any paper that is selling or promoting a particular product or commercial service will not be accepted.

Sustainability

ECA seeks to minimise any negative environmental impact from the conference. We would, therefore, prefer that presentations do not involve the use of single-use plastics or unnecessary printed material—any handouts can be pre-loaded onto the conference website, app or USB.

In keeping with ECA's sustainability drive, all abstracts must be submitted online using the following link: **eca.eventsair. com/2019-national-conference/ application-to-present**.

Review process

All applications to present will be reviewed by a panel that includes members of the Conference Program Committee. Members of the Conference Program Committee will:

- know the identities of the applicants

- assess the applications to ensure the quality and relevance of the presentations

- assess the applications in accordance with the ECA selection criteria.

Wherever possible, feedback will be given to unsuccessful applicants, depending on the number of applications received.

Audio-visual requirements

PowerPoint facilities (data projectors, computers and screens), along with internet access, will be available for presenters. The conference will be networked, which means that presentations will be available in the workshop room from a central location.

Presentations must be in PowerPoint format. The full and final electronic presentation must be submitted by 15 August 2019 to ensure compatibility with the system that will be used.

Publication of papers

All selected abstracts will be published on the 2019 ECA Conference App and website, and presentations will be published on the conference website only. Presentations will not be edited and will be converted directly to PDF files from their submitted format.

Some presentations and papers may also be separately published in other ECA publications. These will be independently decided on by the ECA Publications Advisory Committee. The ECA Publications team will approach presenters independently regarding potential publication. This may involve presenters summarising their paper or presentation for a magazine format. Further instructions will be provided by the ECA Publications team, as required.

Terms and conditions

Successful candidates must agree to the following terms and conditions:

- ECA may record any or all presentations (audio or visual) and make the recordings available at a later date, in accordance with ECA policies. For example, as a downloadable file on the ECA website.

- ECA may broadcast the presentation(s) via live-stream to external conference delegates.

- At the start of the presentation, all presenters will acknowledge the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the area, and the Country on which the conference is being held. The words for an Acknowledgement of Country will be provided to all presenters at the conference.

- Presenters must ensure their availability for media comments about the conference.

- Presenters must be available to speak at any time during the conference (excluding their presentation session).

- Presenters may be asked to repeat their session, if it proves to be popular or if delegates miss out on the session due to lack of space.

- Presenters grant ECA the right to publish their papers on the conference website, and/or publish them in various ECA publications.

- All selected presenters must register for the day on which they are presenting at the conference. If presenters wish to stay for the whole conference, payment needs to be made for the full three days. Up to three (3) presenters will receive the ECA member discount rate for full conference registration.

- Abstracts will be withdrawn from the conference program if registration confirmation and payment are not received by 25 July 2019.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Instructions for completion of application

Step 1: Read all instructions carefully.

Step 2: Complete an application to present, which is made with a submission of a 300-word abstract.

Step 3: Ensure your application addresses the selection criteria.

Step 4: Submit your abstract—no more than 300 words—online, no later than 23 January 2019, via eca.eventsair.com/2019-national-conference application-to-present.

Step 5: Ensure presenter biographies are no more than 50 words in total.

Step 6: Supply at least one presenter photograph with the application (limit file size to a maximum of 1MB).

Please note

- All abstracts and biographies received will undergo editing before being printed in the conference program.
- A maximum of three (3) presenters will be allowed to register and present per paper at the discounted rate.
- Presenters may submit multiple papers, however only one paper can be accepted to present at the conference.
- **Applications received in any way other than online—including hard copy— will not be accepted.**

ITEM	DEADLINE
Closing date for submission of your application to present	23 January 2019
Review of all applications by Conference Program Committee and notification to applicants of outcomes	Between 28 January and 28 February 2019
Draft program published on conference website	31 March 2019
Closing date for successful applicants to register	25 July 2019
Submission of final PowerPoint presentation	15 August 2019

Click here to submit your application to present.

Big Thing II ©Dane Chisholm, licensed by Aboriginal Artists Agency Ltd

Dane Chisholm utilises a whimsical and playful approach to his subject matter. Bold graphics referencing the world around him, his East Coast home by the sea, imaginative creatures and landscapes of the area—both the sparse microscopic details and the chaotic wilderness. Dane's connection to place, as well as his stylistic influences are derived in part from his paternal Tasmanian Aboriginal ancestry. The artist's line work and use of pattern owe much to the artistic legacy of Australian landscape art as well as the abstract art movement. The colour, quirk and naivety suggest influences from Reg Mombassa and Keith Haring, to the cartoons of Michael Leunig and loose flowing landscape lines of John Olsen. Dane has been a selected finalist in a number of prizes such as the Bay of Fires Art Prize, Burnie Print Prize, Tidal: City of Devonport National Art Award, Bruny Island Art Prize and the Heysen Prize in Adelaide.