



Early Childhood  
Australia  
A voice for young children

# YOUNG CITIZENS

*The right to play, learn and be heard*

9 SEPTEMBER - 9 SEPTEMBER  
2021



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# WELCOME FROM CHRISTINE LEGG ECA NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Welcome to the 2021 Early Childhood Australia National Conference, *Young citizens: The right to play, learn and be heard.*

This is ECA's 33<sup>rd</sup> National Conference and it has once more attracted many delegates from across the early childhood education and care (ECEC) sector. The past 18 months have been difficult for the sector, but we're holding strong and I'm pleased that we are meeting online to share and learn from each other.

The conference will celebrate young children as citizens with rights, and it will explore how to respect and support those rights—particularly through play, play-based pedagogy and child-informed practice.

Further, it will re-affirm ECA's commitment to reconciliation and the overall duty of the ECEC sector to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families.

By offering a variety of sessions and content, the conference will highlight current and emerging practice, showcase professional development resources and facilitate contemplative thinking. I strongly believe that the success of this conference will be in the opportunities afforded to the conference delegates through networking and introduction to leading suppliers in the sector, and also new technology supporting early childhood service delivery.


I look forward to meeting you all and hope that you will gain a lot from our excellent speakers and sessions over the next three days.

**Christine Legg**  
National President  
Early Childhood Australia



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NB: This content within this digital Pocket Program is subject to change without notice.  
All times listed are Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

# ABOUT EARLY CHILDHOOD AUSTRALIA



**Early Childhood Australia**

A voice for young children

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) has been a voice for young children since 1938. ECA is the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood sector. ECA advocates to ensure quality, social justice and equity in all issues related to the education and care of children from birth to eight years.

**Our vision:** Every young child is thriving and learning.

**Our values are:**

- Respect
- Leadership
- Integrity
- Equity

**For more information, or to request a free membership kit, contact ECA.**

**T:** 02 6242 1800

**F:** 02 6242 1818

**E:** [eca@earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:eca@earlychildhood.org.au)

**W:** [www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au](http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au)

## Acknowledgement of Country

Early Childhood Australia acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to the Elders both past and present.

# CONFERENCE ARTWORK

## 'WARU 1 (Sea Turtle)' by Wayne 'Liwingu' McGinness

Wayne 'Liwingu' McGinness is a sculptor whose art reflects his diverse ancestry. His grandparents were from the Ngadjon, the Yidinji, the Kungarrakan tribes as well as Irish and Torres Strait Islander descent. Wayne's style of sculpture portrays contemporary Aboriginal art in both two and three dimensions. Many of Wayne's designs represent the animals of his childhood and of his grandparents' lands (Atherton Tablelands, Queensland/Finnis River Northern Territory). However, he is not restricted to these and likes designing and creating pieces depicting animals from other regions of Australia. The movement of animals is what inspires him, and this is the main feature of his work. Wayne creates all his pieces from Australian 316 marine-grade stainless steel—a beautiful steel alloy that is durable, clean and pleasing to the eye.







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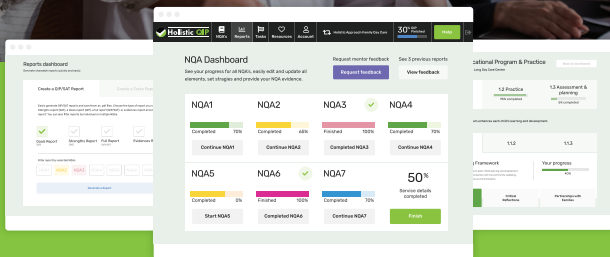
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	<b>Animal Fun</b> <a href="https://animalfun.com.au/">https://animalfun.com.au/</a>
	<b>Be You</b> <a href="https://beyou.edu.au/">https://beyou.edu.au/</a>
	<b>Bonde</b> <a href="https://bonde.app/">https://bonde.app/</a>
	<b>Community Early Learning Australia (CELA)</b> <a href="https://www.cela.org.au/">https://www.cela.org.au/</a>
	<b>Connetix Tiles</b> <a href="http://www.connetixtiles.com/">http://www.connetixtiles.com/</a>
	<b>Department of Education and Training – Early Childhood Scholarships Program</b> <a href="http://www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships">www.education.vic.gov.au/ecscholarships</a>
	<b>Early Childhood Australia</b> <a href="http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/">http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/</a>
	<b>Early Learning Stem Australia</b> <a href="https://elsa.edu.au/">https://elsa.edu.au/</a>

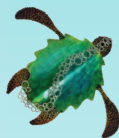
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# CONFERENCE THEMES

## Introducing the concepts underpinning the 2021 ECA National Conference

In 2021, we celebrate young children as citizens with rights and explore how to respect and support those rights, particularly through play, play-based pedagogy and child-informed practice. The themes this year build on the ECA Queensland branch's work on the 2014 *Statement of Intent on Children's Rights in Early Education and Care* and more than 60 years of celebrating 'Under Eights Week'.

### Conference highlights

- Renowned Australian and international keynote speakers
- Panel sessions on children's rights and reflecting on our professional identity
- Concurrent sessions across all conference themes
- Current Australian research
- Launch of the *ECA Statement on Play*
- Presentations and awards:
  - Early Childhood Australia Doctoral Thesis Award
  - Barbara Creaser Memorial Lecture
  - Barbara Creaser Award
  - Barbara Creaser Champion Award
  - Barbara Creaser Awards Panel

## Children as citizens

Children are citizens from birth and have civil, cultural, linguistic, social and economic rights. This stream focuses on children as active and engaged citizens connected to their communities. It also looks at how we can support children's agency and empower their right to be heard.

## Multiple perspectives on pedagogy and practice

As educators and teachers, there are many different perspectives on teaching and learning that we can draw on, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ways and a rapidly expanding range of digital technologies. Under this theme we look at engaging with multiple perspectives to enhance practice and pedagogy.

## Fostering creativity and curiosity

Creativity and curiosity are two of the most important strengths children can develop to live resilient lives in a rapidly changing world. Under this theme we look at the best approaches to foster these strengths in the early years and in early education and care settings. We also focus on collective practice that can influence children's capacity to achieve their learning potential.

## Ethics and leadership

This theme explores the skills and knowledge needed for ethical leadership and how we can build the ethical leaders we need for the future. It also examines the role of leaders in supporting ethical practice throughout the early childhood profession and how this informs our advocacy work.

## Workforce capacity, capability and wellbeing

Quality is dependent on workforce, professionalism, training and planning. Through this theme we look at how political, social, cultural and economic changes enable or constrain the ECEC workforce. We also discuss how we can support educators' wellbeing and build their capacity and capability to meet demands while remaining innovative and agile.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Sir Kevan Collins

Kevan Collins is a Board Member of Goodstart Early Learning and has worked in the UK public service for more than 30 years. In 2011, he became the first chief executive of the Education Endowment Foundation—an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement—and led the organisation for eight years.

Prior to this role, Kevan led a varied and distinguished career in education. After starting off as a primary school teacher in London, UK, he went on to lead the English Primary Strategy as national director, and then served as director of children's services at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Kevan's international experience includes working in Mozambique, the US and Australia—particularly, supporting the development of a national literacy initiative in the US, and advising on the development of a national early years initiative in Australia.

Kevan completed his doctorate focusing on literacy development at Leeds University in 2005. He is a Visiting Professor at the University of London and was knighted for services to education in 2015.



## Grace Tame

Grace Tame is an advocate for the survivors of child sexual abuse and a leader of positive change. After being groomed and raped by her maths teacher when she was just 15 years old, Grace spent the next 10 years of her life turning her traumatic experience into something positive. Recognising the injustice of Tasmania's gag order that prevented survivors from identifying themselves publicly, Grace spent several months campaigning with the #LetHerSpeak campaign. In 2019, she finally won the court order to speak out under her own name.

Now 26 and based in Hobart, Grace is dedicated to eradicating child sexual abuse in Australia and supporting the survivors of child sexual abuse. Her focus is on enabling survivors to tell their stories without shame and educating the public around the process and lasting effects of grooming. She works with policy- and decision-makers to ensure we have federal legislation that supports the survivors, not just the perpetrators.

Grace is also a passionate yoga teacher, visual artist and champion long-distance runner, having won the 2020 Ross Marathon in a female course record time of 2:59:31. She was recently named 2021 Australian of the Year.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



## Dr Anita Heiss

Dr Anita Heiss is an award-winning author who specialises in genres such as non-fiction, historical fiction, commercial women's fiction, children's novels and poetry. She is a proud member of the Wiradjuri Nation. Anita is a Professor of Communications at the University of Queensland and an Ambassador for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation, Worawa Aboriginal College and the GO Foundation. She is also a Board Member of the University of Queensland Press, Circa Contemporary Circus and the National Justice Project.

Anita's children's literature includes *Harry's Secret*, *Matty's Comeback*, *Our Race for Reconciliation* and a novel about the Stolen Generations—*Who Am I? The Diary of Mary Talence*—which has been published internationally. She has also co-written several children's books, including *Kicking Goals with Goodes and Magic* (with Adam Goodes and Michael O'Loughlin) as well as *Yirra and Her Deadly Dog*, *Demon*, and *Demon Guards the School Yard* (with students from La Perouse Public School).

Anita is currently adapting her 2014 novel *Tiddas* for the stage, and her latest novel is *Bila Yarrudhangalangdhuray*.



## Steve Sammartino

Steve Sammartino is Australia's leading futurist. He's created technology firsts, written extensively and he has a rare ability to communicate it all on stage.

Steve started coding at age 10 and set up his first startup by age 12. He has since built and sold a number of businesses, including Rentoid.com, which global media giants have credited as being the start of the sharing-economy movement that gave birth to Uber and Airbnb.

Steve is a mentor for startup entrepreneurs, and a technology investor. His tech projects have gained global attention: he built the world's first drivable car entirely out of LEGO bricks; he sent a toy space shuttle into Earth's orbit by hacking together a rig for under \$2000; and he's currently building the world's most modern 3D-printed house.

Steve has authored two bestselling books and he writes about technology for *Marketing* magazine. He's also written white papers on the future prospects of various industries. Currently, Steve's on the technical advisory committee for the design of Australia's new drone regulations. He's also the country's most respected media commentator on all things future.

# PANEL SPEAKERS

## Panel: Children's rights



### Cheryl Vardon, Queensland Family and Child Commission

Cheryl Vardon is the Chief Executive and Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

Cheryl has a distinguished career in education, community and children's services and areas of complex public policy, with a sound track record of leadership and expertise in the oversight of policy into strategies and outcomes. On behalf of the Queensland Government and the community, Cheryl has led a series of reviews leading to practical systems reforms to keep vulnerable children more than safe.



### Professor Marilyn Flee, Monash University

Laureate Professor Marilyn Flee, Monash University, was awarded the 2018 Kathleen Fitzpatrick Laureate Fellowship by the Australian Research Council. She holds the positions of Honorary Research Fellow with the University of Oxford, Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, and Aarhus University, Denmark. She received the 2019 Ashley Goldsworthy Award for outstanding leadership.



### Robyn Monro Miller, International Play Association

Robyn Monro Miller is a former child, with more than half a century of experience in being playful. Her early years were spent building unsafe structures in gum trees in the bushland south of Sydney.

Play followed her into adulthood and her work with children encompassed a move into teaching and then the outside school hours care (OSHC) sector where she remained for 28 years. Robyn has held representative leadership roles in Australian children's services at a state and national level, and her work as an advocate for children's services was recognised with a Commonwealth Centenary Medal.

In 2012, as a Board Member of the International Play Association (IPA), Robyn was part of the international delegation to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva that developed the UN General Comment on Article 31, 'The child's right to play'. She is currently a Board Member of Play Australia, and since 2017 she has been the President of IPA.



### Catherine Liddle, SNAICC

An Arrernte/Luritja woman from Central Australia, Catherine Liddle has a strong background in senior management positions with First Nations organisations. She has also held senior roles within the Northern Territory Education Department, the ABC and NITV/SBS.

A journalist by profession, Catherine's motivation has always been to drive change that leads to positive outcomes and options for First Nations peoples. Over the past 10 years, she has led multidisciplinary teams, overseen workplace transformations and advocated for policy reform.

# PANEL SPEAKERS

## Panel: Reflecting on our professional identity



### Dr Anne Kennedy, Early Childhood Consultant

Dr Anne Kennedy works as a consultant, writer, trainer, researcher and advocate in early childhood education. Anne was on the Charles Sturt University team that developed the national *Early Years Learning Framework*, and she currently sits on the Board of the Australian Education Research Organisation and The Front Project, where she is a non-executive director. Anne's interest in professional ethics was furthered through her doctoral research, which examined early childhood education as an ethical concern. She was a member of the working groups that reviewed ECA's *Code of Ethics* in 2006 and 2016, and she co-authored the related implementation guide, *Ethics in Action*.



### Professor Sue Irvine, Queensland University of Technology

Professor Susan Irvine is an early childhood professional with diverse work experience across early childhood education and care (ECEC) contexts. She has held leadership roles in child and family policy, ECEC service provision and higher education. Currently she is the head of the School of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education at Queensland University of Technology and her recent research focuses on the ECEC workforce, leadership in family day care, quality improvement in long day care and the in-progress Australian Learning Frameworks Updates project.



### Belinda Rule, The Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited

Belinda Rule is a director and teacher at C&K Eimeo Road Community Kindergarten in Mackay. Her practice centres around STEM, inclusion and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait perspectives. She has published widely on these topics.



### Helen Gibbons, United Workers Union

Helen Gibbons is the Executive Director of Early Education at the United Workers Union. Helen trained as a teacher and spent 20 years working in early education before becoming a union leader. She is a passionate advocate for high-quality early education and for the educators who make it happen.



### Aunty Denise Proud

Aunty Denise Proud was born in Wakka Wakka Country, Cherbourg, Queensland, and she has been involved in early childhood education since the 1960s. Having worked as a cultural advisor in Queensland Corrections, Aunty Denise has extensive experience across the spectrum of community services, including children, youth, men, women and Aboriginal organisations. She is also a Board Member of Reconciliation Queensland and an Honorary Senior Fellow of the University of Sunshine Coast.

# INVITED SPEAKERS



## The Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Federal Minister for Education and Youth

Alan Tudge is the Federal Member for Aston and the Minister for Education and Youth in the Morrison Government. He has previously served as Minister for Population, Cities and Urban Infrastructure; Acting Minister for Immigration, Citizenship, Migrant Services and Multicultural Affairs; Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs; Minister for Human Services and Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister. Alan was first elected in 2010 and, prior to entering parliament, he spent most of his career in business, including with the Boston Consulting Group in Australia and the United States, and worked as a senior adviser to the foreign minister and education minister.



## The Hon. Grace Grace MP, Queensland Minister for Education

Grace Grace was first elected to State Parliament in October 2007. She is currently the member for McConnell. Grace was appointed Minister for Employment, Industrial Relations, Racing and Multicultural Affairs in December 2015. In this role she successfully implemented a series of important legislative reforms, including the *Racing Integrity Act*, the *Multicultural Recognition Act* and the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*.

Following the 2017 state election, Grace was appointed Minister for Education and Industrial Relations—both areas she is passionate about. Her tireless advocacy helped deliver a new high school in Fortitude Valley in 2020, the first school built in the inner city in 50 years. Grace was appointed Minister for Education, Industrial Relations and Racing following the recent 2020 state election.

During her career, Grace has had extensive director board experience with organisations such as Sunsuper, Energex and Southbank Corporation. She has also worked with local organisations in her electorate such as P&Cs, Queensland Aids Council (QuAC) and many others.

Grace has lived her whole life in her electorate where she and her husband Michael raised their child, Alex.





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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021

## MASTERCLASSES

<b>9.00 AM–12.00 PM</b>	<b>Masterclass 1:</b> Masterclass on Early Childhood Education for Sustainability
<b>12.30 PM–3.30 PM</b>	<b>Masterclass 2:</b> ECA Leadership Masterclass
<b>4.00 PM–5.00 PM</b>	<b>Virtual Centre Tour</b>

NB: Program subject to change without notice. All times are listed in Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

8.30 AM–9.30 AM	Welcome
9.30 AM–10.00 AM	Opening Keynote Address: Sir Kevan Collins
10.00 AM–10.20 AM	Australian Keynote Address: Anne Hollonds
10.20 AM–11.05 AM	Morning Tea
11.05 AM–11.50 AM	Concurrent Sessions
11.50 PM–12.00 PM	Room Change
12.00 PM–12.45 PM	Concurrent Sessions
12.45 PM–1.45 PM	Lunch
1.45 PM–2.30 PM	Concurrent Sessions
2.30 PM–2.40 PM	Room Change
2.40 PM–3.25 PM	Concurrent Sessions
3.25 PM–4.10 PM	Afternoon Tea
4.10 PM–5.20 PM	<b>Panel on Children's Rights</b> Cheryl Vardon, Queensland Family and Child Commission Professor Marilyn Fleer, Monash University Robyn Monro Miller, International Play Association Catherine Liddle, SNAICC
5.20 PM–5.30 PM	Day 1 Closing Remarks
6.45 PM	2021 HESTA Early Childhood Education & Care Awards live broadcast event

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021	
8.30 AM–8.40 AM	Welcome Back
8.40 AM–9.30 AM	Keynote Address: Grace Tame
9.30 AM–9.40 AM	Room Change
9.40 AM–10.25 AM	Concurrent Sessions
10.25 AM–11.10 AM	Morning Tea
11.10 AM–11.55 AM	Concurrent Sessions
11.55 AM–12.05 PM	Room Change
12.05 PM–12.50 PM	Concurrent Sessions
12.50 PM–1.50 PM	Lunch
1.50 PM–2.35 PM	Concurrent Sessions
2.35 PM–2.45 PM	Room Change
2.45 PM–3.30 PM	Concurrent Sessions
3.30 PM–4.15 PM	Afternoon Tea
4.15 PM–5.05 PM	Keynote Address: Dr Anita Heiss
5.05 PM–5.10 PM	Day 2 Closing Remarks

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# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

## DAY 3—THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

8.20 AM–8.35 AM	<b>Welcome Back</b>
8.35 AM–9.25 AM	<b>Panel: Reflecting on our professional identity</b> Dr Anne Kennedy, Early Childhood Consultant Professor Sue Irvine, Queensland University of Technology Belinda Rule, The Childcare and Kindergarten Association Helen Gibbons, United Workers Union Aunty Denise Proud
9.25 AM–9.30 AM	<b>Room Change</b>
9.30 AM–10.10 AM	<b>Awards Presentations</b> ECA Doctoral Thesis Award Barbara Creaser Awards Barbara Creaser Memorial Lecture
10.10 AM–10.50 AM	<b>Morning Tea</b>
10.50 AM–11.35 AM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>
11.35 AM–11.45 AM	<b>Room Change</b>
11.45 AM–12.30 PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>
12.30 PM–1.30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
1.30 PM–2.15 PM	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>
2.15 PM–2.25 PM	<b>Room Change</b>
2.25 PM–3.15 PM	<b>Keynote Address:</b> Steve Sammartino
3.15 PM–3.25 PM	<b>Closing Remarks and Launch of 2022 National Conference</b>

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# PROGRAM AND SPEAKER INDEX

## Conference themes

**CC** Children as citizens








**MP** Multiple perspectives on pedagogy and practice

**FC** Fostering creativity and curiosity

**EL** Ethics and leadership

**WC** Workforce capacity, capability and wellbeing




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DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021		
8.30 AM–8.40 AM	<b>Welcome to Country</b>  Live Stream	
8.40 AM–8.55 AM	<b>Welcome by Hon. Alan Tudge MP, Minister for Education and Youth</b>  Live Stream	
8.55 AM–9.10 AM	<b>Welcome by Hon. Grace Grace MP, Minister for Education, Minister for Racing and Minister for Industrial Relations</b>  Live Stream	
9.10 AM–9.20 AM	<b>Welcome by ECA National President</b> Christine Legg  Live Stream	
9.20 AM–9.30 AM	<b>Modern Teaching Aids – Platinum Sponsor Address</b> Jim Craddock  Live Stream	
9.30 AM–10.00 AM	<b>Opening Keynote Address</b> <b>From recovery to reform—responding to COVID disruption in early learning</b> Sir Kevan Collins  Live Stream	
10.00 AM–10.20 AM	<b>Australian Keynote Address</b> Anne Hollonds  Live Stream	
10.20 AM–11.05 AM	<b>Morning Tea</b>	

DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021



11.05 AM–11.50 AM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Leading play-based pedagogies—Advocating for children's rights to learn through play</b>                      Associate Professor Lennie Barblett AM,                      Dr Sandra Cheeseman &amp; Catharine Hydon</p> <p>Live Stream</p>	 
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Tale of two cities. Children's rights, citizenship and participation in different communities</b>                      Simone Myskiw &amp; Rebecca Mouat</p> <p>Live Stream 2</p>	 
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Shaping sustainable futures: Sustainable Development Goals in action</b>                      Dr Lisa Sonter &amp; Sharon Kemp</p> <p>Room 1</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>ORICL: A new tool to improve practice for children birth to two years</b>                      Professor Linda Harrison, Associate Professor Kate Williams &amp; Sheena Elwick</p> <p>Room 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>AEDC: Using data to change our community story</b>                      Madeline Hagon</p> <p>Room 3</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>The synergy between empathy and creativity in children's play</b>                      Novia Heroanto</p> <p>Room 4</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>ECEC service leaders, multi-disciplinary network membership and professional practice</b>                      Michele Binstadt</p> <p>Room 5</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Children as influencers in change</b>                      Carrie Rose</p> <p>Room 6</p>	

## DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021



11.05 AM–11.50 AM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Dynamic leadership in the early years: Leading together through communities of practice</b>                      Dr Sharryn Clarke, Dr Leigh Disney and Dr Robyn Babaieff                      Room 7</p>	EL
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning</b>                      Elizabeth Noske                      Room 8</p>	FC
11.50 AM–12.00 PM	<b>Room Change</b>	
12.00 PM–12.45 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>ECA Statement on play</b>                      Dr Kate Highfield, Sarah Swain &amp; Professor Marilyn Floor                      Sponsored by  modern teaching aids                      Live Stream</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Wellbeing session</b>                      Karina Bourne                      Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Integrating the UN Sustainable Development Goals in early childhood education to foster transformational learning</b>                      Stephanie Willey                      Room 1</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Children with power: The journey from token participation to influencing real change</b>                      Bridget Isichei &amp; Melisa Giles                      Room 2</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Educators in technology-based collaborative design process: Necessary and capable partners</b>                      Dr Holly Tootell, Dr Mark Freeman &amp; Dr Grant Ellmers                      Room 3</p>	WC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Distributed leadership in practice: An example of a whole centre approach</b>                      Valentina Caputo &amp; Leora Coleman                      Room 4</p>	EL




## DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

12.00 PM–12.45 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Children's right to ask questions: Fostering creativity and curiosity through inquiry-based learning</b>                      Dr Pauline Roberts</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	FC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>It takes three: Social justice and equity from non-dominant leaders' perspectives</b>                      Yuki Takahashi Braybrook, Benjamin Kikkert &amp; Kausser Awad Maaruf</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	EL
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>I know what I like: Pupils' voice about learning Chinese in classroom</b>                      Yue Zhao</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 7</p>	CC
12.45 PM–1.45 PM	Lunch	
1.45 PM–2.30 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>It's like chill out: Children's accounts of rest-time and relaxation</b>                      Emma Cooke</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream</p>	 CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder – what do we need to know</b>                      Dr Kate Highfield</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Using children's literature to build STEM practices: Early Learning STEM Australia (ELSA)</b>                      Associate Professor Kym Simoncini</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	MP
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Creating spaces for children's talk: Strategies for promoting rich conversations with children</b>                      Dr Sandy Houen &amp; Danielle Toon</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	CC

**DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021**

1.45 PM–2.30 PM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>It's time we see educators being, belonging and becoming too</b> Nikki Graham & Julie Price Room 3	WC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Computational thinking in the early years setting</b> Kim Vernon Room 4	MP
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>The child's right to ethical leadership: Exploring reconciliation, respect, identity and citizenship</b> Mel Angel & Sharon Rogers Room 6	EL
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Gender-bender: Challenging historical and socio-cultural views of men in early childhood</b> David Martin Room 7	WC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Screen time use in the family day care environment</b> Erin Kerr Room 8	MP
2.30 PM–2.40 PM	Room Change	
2.40 PM–3.25 PM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in early learning –Moving from safe to brave</b> Esma Livermore & Julie Bover Live Stream	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Together we can! Partnering to improve outcomes</b> Grant Webb & Adjunct Professor Frank Tracey Live Stream 2	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>STEM-sell: The design, enactment and evaluation of STEM resources in the NT</b> Cristina Guarrella, Georgina Hill & Lucy Stewart Room 1	MP





## DAY 1—TUESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2021

2.40 PM–3.25 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Explicit teaching of language and literacy in the early years to teach reading</b>                      Maree Karaka</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	MP
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Involving children and families in Assessment and Rating</b>                      Cathy McClennan</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 3</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Our kindy's journey navigating Aboriginal and Torres Strait perspectives</b>                      Belinda Rule</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 4</p>	MP
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Play for the sake of play: Adopting a Playwork approach</b>                      Kylie Keane</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	MP
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b>  <b>Strengthening distributed leadership: What can we learn from family day care?</b>                      Professor Susan Irvine, Michael Farrell &amp; Deb Tuckey</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	WC
3.25 PM–4.10 PM	<b>Afternoon Tea</b>	
4.10 PM–5.20 PM	<p><b>Panel on Children's Rights</b>                      Cheryl Vardon, Queensland Family and Child Commission                      Professor Marilyn Fleer, Monash University                      Robyn Monro Miller, International Play Association                      Catherine Liddle, SNAICC</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream</p>	
5.20 PM–5.30 PM	<b>Day 1 Closing Remarks</b>	



## Conference themes

- CC** Children as citizens      **MP** Multiple perspectives on pedagogy and practice  
**FC** Fostering creativity and curiosity      **EL** Ethics and leadership  
**WC** Workforce capacity, capability and wellbeing

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DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021		
8.30 AM–8.40 AM	<b>Welcome Back</b>  Live Stream	
8.40 AM–9.30 AM	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>When we share, we heal</b> Grace Tame  Live Stream	
9.30 AM–9.40 AM	<b>Room Change</b>	
9.40 AM–10.25 AM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Keeping our kids safe—Applying a cultural lens to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations</b> Adele Cox, Aman Alamzeb  Live Stream	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Writing, reviewing and using ECA publications in your setting for professional development</b> Dr Jane Page OAM, Emeritus Professor Ann Farrell & Jackie Brien  Live Stream 2	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Leading for quality in the early years</b> Dr Lisa Palethorpe  Room 1	<b>EL</b>
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Making your space so it fosters creativity, curiosity and learning</b> Janette Nicoll, Louisa Ewin & Kirsten Holland  Room 2	<b>FC</b>









## DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

9.40 AM–10.25 AM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Brain food for builders: An executive functioning lens for spatial learning</b> Sue Southey Room 3	FC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Express yourself! Using creation app and multimedia tools in the early years</b> Monika Tavernier Room 5	CC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Early learning environments, supporting high levels of wellbeing and involvement</b> Dr Rita Melia Room 6	MP
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Engaging children's voices in program improvement</b> Sharon Sparks Room 7	MP
10.25 AM–11.10 AM	Morning Tea	
11.10 AM–11.55 AM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Rituals: A pathway to self-regulation</b> Toni Christie Live Stream	 CC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Early Childhood Australia's advocacy</b> Sarah Swain Live Stream 2	


## DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.10 AM–12.50 AM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Applying a risk-based approach to complaint management</b></p> <p>Jonathan Sleeman</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	EL
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>A world we are all safe to live in</b></p> <p>Katrina Hendry, Catherine Atherton &amp; Gina Sloane</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Promoting children's rights by hearing their experiences: The Australian Child Maltreatment Study</b></p> <p>Dr Divna Haslam</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 3</p>	MP
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Why all the SSSh? Integrating safe sleep and settling practices across ECEC</b></p> <p>Cindy Davenport &amp; Jane Wiggill</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 4</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Language, culture, understanding. It all starts in preschool</b></p> <p>Amanda Macdonald</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Playgroup@home LIVE: Remotely connecting families amid social restrictions</b></p> <p>Dr Joanne Tarasuik &amp; NancyLee Merzel</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>School readiness funding: Fostering partnerships with professionals</b></p> <p>Pippa Procter</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 7</p>	WC
11.55 AM–12.05 PM	Room Change	

## DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021



12.05 PM–12.50 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Conceptual PlayWorlds and intentional teaching to support imagination in play and learning</b></p> <p>Professor Marilyn Fleer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream</p>	 
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Enacting the <i>Code of Ethics</i> in challenging times</b></p> <p>Dr Anne Kennedy &amp; Associate Professor Lennie Barblett AM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Citizenship and early childhood in the Australian context: Challenges and concerns</b></p> <p>Maree Aldwinckle &amp; Selma Jo Wastell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Imagine eco-pedagogy: To instil a sense of curiosity and creativity for resilience</b></p> <p>Michelle Carrick</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Pedagogical preparedness: How an organisation manages the changing nature of early childhood</b></p> <p>Dr Michele Peden</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 3</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Stop cutting down trees, baby possums live there! Supporting children as activists</b></p> <p>Linda Price</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 4</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Connections and culture: Merging communities and culture in an early years program</b></p> <p>Karen Shackell, Lara Bennett, Deidre Curry &amp; Rackel Sussyer</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	

## DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021



12.05 PM–12.50 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>KindiLink: Play-and-learn for little kids and families, linked with schools</b></p> <p>Dr Rosemary Cahill &amp; Narell Black</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	MP
12.50 PM–1.50 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	
1.50 PM–2.35 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Leading and sustaining quality improvement: What makes the difference in LDC services?</b></p> <p>Associate Professor Fay Hadley, Gabrielle Sinclair &amp; Professor Susan Irvine</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream</p>	<p>Sponsored by</p>  <p><b>Queensland Government</b></p> <p>WC</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>ECA Board hot topics</b></p> <p>ECA Board</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream 2</p>	<p>WC</p>
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Assessment for learning: What does it look like? Why do it?</b></p> <p>Tor Polding, Pippa Procter, Sue Robb OBE, Dr Jane Page OAM &amp; Annette McKenzie</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	WC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>How shifting the way we frame children's 'challenging behaviours' transforms the program</b></p> <p>Dr Melinda Miller &amp; Sandi Phoenix</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	WC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Refugee and asylum seeker early childhood pilot</b></p> <p>Sahba Hamid &amp; Anaik Doyle</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 3</p>	CC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Intentionally teaching to support the development of executive functioning skills in preschoolers</b></p> <p>Gauri Sharma</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 4</p>	MP



## DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

1.50 PM–2.35 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>The role of leadership in a 'whole-of-service' approach to health promoting practice</b></p> <p>Lara Hernandez</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	EL
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Professional reading, leadership and ethics</b></p> <p>Jackie Brien</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	EL
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Bosses and creators: Children's experiences of agency vs adult regulation in play</b></p> <p>Dr Carmen Huser</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 7</p>	CC
2.35 PM–2.45 PM	<b>Room Change</b>	
2.45 PM–3.30 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>The practice of professionalism—Developing a shared understanding</b></p> <p>Ian Alchin</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream</p>	 WC
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Celebrating and strengthening the <i>Early Years Learning Framework</i> and <i>My Time, Our Place</i>: Gathering perspectives to inform the Approved Learning Frameworks (ALF's) Update project</b></p> <p>Professor Sue Irvine, Professor Fay Hadley, Professor Linda Harrison &amp; Associate Professor Lennie Barblett AM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Early childhood teachers' perceived role, knowledge and confidence with language and literacy</b></p> <p>Tessa Weadman</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	WC








## DAY 2—WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021

2.45 PM–3.30 PM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>What is the Early Childhood Early Intervention approach—Northcott</b> Maree Bisby & Donna Jones Room 2	CC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Creating compassion, connection and confidence within educator teams to spark conversations with children around gender and sexualities</b> Samantha Newbury Room 3	MP
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Book Book Book! The role of chickens in early childhood settings</b> Gabby Millgate Room 4	FC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledges in the early years (F–2)</b> Natalie Jonas Room 5	MP
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Our journey towards sustainable transformative practice and provision</b> Emma Keene & Belinda Ross Room 6	WC
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Overcoming barriers to inquiry-based STEM learning</b> Hayley Bates Room 7	FC
3.30 PM–4.15 PM	Afternoon Tea	
4.15 PM–5.05 PM	<b>Keynote Address</b> <b>Wingarra. Yalbilinya. Marramarra.</b> (Listen. Learn. Create.) Dr Anita Heiss	Sponsored by   Live Stream
5.05 PM–5.10 PM	<b>Day 2 Closing Remarks</b> Live Stream	








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DAY 3—THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021		
8.20 AM–8.25 AM	<b>Welcome Back</b>  Live Stream	
8.25 AM–8.35 AM	<b>Welcome by Hon. Amanda Rishworth MP</b>  Live Stream	
8.35 AM–9.25 AM	<b>Panel: Reflecting on Our Professional Identity</b> Dr Anne Kennedy, Early Childhood Consultant Professor Sue Irvine, Queensland University of Technology Belinda Rule, Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited Helen Gibbons, United Workers Union Aunty Denise Proud  Live Stream	
9.25 AM–9.30 AM	<b>Room Change</b>	
9.30 AM–9.40 AM	<b>Award Presentations</b> <b>ECA Doctoral Thesis Award</b> <b>Barbara Creaser Awards</b>  Live Stream	
9.40 AM–10.10 AM	<b>Barbara Creaser Memorial Lecture</b> <b>Early childhood leadership legends, lies and loves</b> Professor Emeritus Ann Farrell  Live Stream	
10.10 AM–10.50 AM	<b>Morning Tea</b>	
10.50 AM–11.35 AM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>From birth to three: Exploring educators' understandings of agency</b> Tanya Burr & Professor Sheila Degotardi  Live Stream	 











## DAY 3—THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

10.50 AM–11.35 AM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Doctoral Thesis Award Presentation</b>  <b>Yearning for a sense of place and a place to play:</b>  <b>The experience of refugee families in Queensland</b>  <b>early childhood services</b></p> <p>Dr Cherie Lamb</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>To be or not to be: Promising children</b></p> <p>Nicole Caves</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 1</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Embedding Be You following an inquiry into how to</b>  <b>implement critical reflection</b></p> <p>Lisa Watson &amp; Dr Debra Williams</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>When I grow up, I want to be a sandwich</b></p> <p>Angeline Neville</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 3</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Using drama to nurture creativity and curiosity</b></p> <p>Nicole Haeusler, Jo Darbyshire &amp; Kathy Mitchell</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 4</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>The journey of the young learner with nature as</b>  <b>their teacher</b></p> <p>Tamara Abbott</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 5</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>'The Five Branches Framework'—Bringing back the joy</b>  <b>of music</b></p> <p>Anne Belcher</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Room 6</p>	
11.35 AM–11.45 AM	<b>Room Change</b>	

## DAY 3—THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

11.45 AM–12.30 PM	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Growing our educators' capability and confidence in guiding children's behaviour</b> Dr Suzy Tamone & Shelley Marie-Sainte Live Stream	 
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Barbara Creaser Awards Panel</b> Professor Emeritus Ann Farrell, Casey Jai Goodman & Penny Andersen Live Stream 2	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Child rights are human rights—An approach with infants and toddlers</b> Leslie Braganza Room 1	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Empowered citizens in early childhood</b> Karin Humphrey Room 2	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>A journey through place: Embracing relationships</b> Alissa Castro Room 3	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Expanding normative influences and provocations for art-making practices in early childhood pedagogy</b> Mary Stenmark Room 4	
	<b>Concurrent Session</b> <b>Fostering creativity through music therapy</b> Dinah Humphries Room 5	
12.30 PM–1.30 PM	Lunch	

## DAY 3—THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2021

1.30 PM–2.15 PM	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Trauma-aware early childhood education and care</b> Dr Judith Howard</p> <p>Live Stream</p>	 
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>HESTA Early Childhood Education and Care workforce insights: COVID and beyond 2021</b></p> <p>Live Stream 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Children as enabled citizens in a post-industrialised, post-COVID society</b> Cathy Gordon &amp; Anneliese Knell</p> <p>Room 1</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Autism-friendly language and literacy library program for preschoolers</b> Andrea Hurley &amp; Dr Jessica Paynter</p> <p>Room 2</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>Look for opportunities, not constraint: Authentic leadership and organisational culture in practice</b> Anna Dutney &amp; Kim Yarnton</p> <p>Room 3</p>	
	<p><b>Concurrent Session</b></p> <p><b>The 21st Century moving forward: Digital technology and Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model Theory</b> Naomi Sheridan</p> <p>Room 4</p>	
2.15 PM–2.25 PM	<b>Room Change</b>	
2.25 PM–3.15 PM	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p><b>Inventing our future</b> Steve Sammartino</p> <p>Sponsored by</p>  <p>Live Stream</p>	
3.15PM–3.25 PM	<p><b>Closing Remarks by ECA National President and Launch of the 2022 Conference</b></p> <p>Live Stream</p>	

# SUPPORT SERVICES

Early Childhood Australia recognises that some content discussed during the conference may be unsettling to delegates and we are mindful that you may need to reach out for support.

Below is a list of services available to contact if you need support.



**Beyond Blue**

1300 224 636

[www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)



**Brisbane Rape and Incest  
Survivors Support Centre**

07 3391 0004

[www.briscc.org.au](http://www.briscc.org.au)



**Lifeline**

13 11 14

[www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)



**1800 Respect**

1800 737 732

[www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)



**Blue Knot Foundation**

1300 657 380

[www.blueknot.org.au](http://www.blueknot.org.au)



**WWILD**

07 3262 9877

[wwild.org.au](http://wwild.org.au)

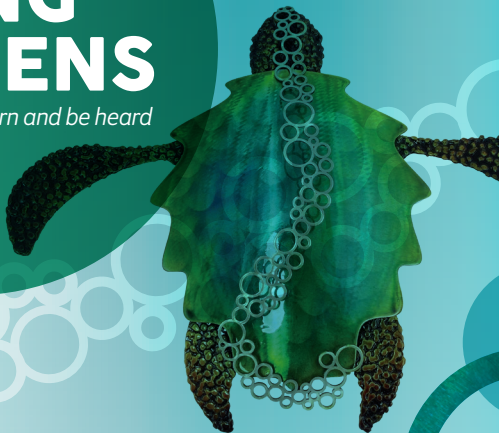


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A voice for young children

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*The right to play, learn and be heard*



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