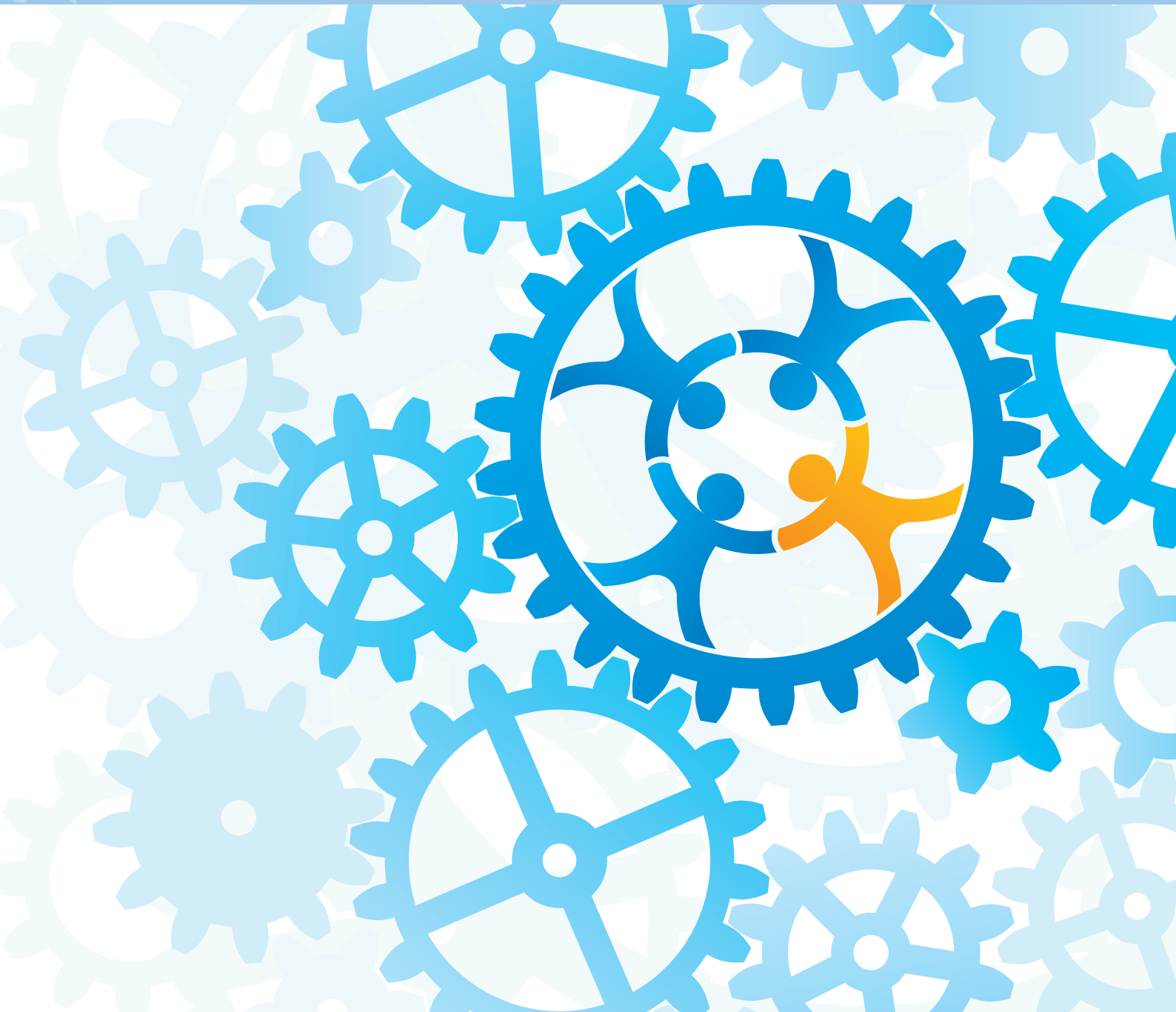


2012

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN



National Montessori Early Childhood Education and Care Conference
Saturday March 31 & Sunday April 1, 2012
Rydges South Park – 1 South Terrace ADELAIDE South Australia 5000

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN SCHEDULE



SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2012

08:00 – 09:00

Registration and Exhibitors

09:00 – 09:10

Welcome and Sponsor Acknowledgement – [Barbara Langford, MC](#) / [Christine Harrison](#)

09:10 – 09:25

Official Opening – [Hon Grace Portolesi](#)

09:25 – 09:40

Montessori Around the World – [Megan Tyne](#)

For over one hundred years Montessori principles have been applied throughout the world in virtually every socio-economic, educational and cultural setting to support the natural development of the human being from birth to maturity. This presentation will highlight the scope, diversity and renown of the Montessori approach around the world revealing at its heart the universal nature and dignity of the child.

09:40 – 10:45

Brain Development in the Early Years – [Steve Hughes](#)

Most educators and parents are aware of the importance of the earliest years of life. Proper nutrition, a safe environment, and plenty of love are just the thing to prepare baby for a long and happy life. Yet, while many of the benefits of a healthy rearing environment are well understood, it is only recently that researchers have come to understand just how the right kind of nurturance (and even the right kind of struggle) can work to “build a better brain.” Hear what developmental neuroscience says about fostering optimal brain development in the critical years from age 0 to 6.

10:45 – 11:15

Morning Tea

11:15 – 11:55

The Role of ACECQA – [Karen Curtis](#)

The Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) is the new national entity set up to oversee changes to early childhood education and care and school age care in Australia. It’s role is to guide the implementation of the National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care at the national level. ACECQA will be monitoring and promoting the consistent application of the Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 across all states and territories. One of ACECQA’s roles is to provide education and raise awareness across the sector and the community. They will be undertaking research to ensure governments and the sector are across the latest developments and to enable policy and practice in Australia to be informed by the most current research. Karen Curtis will explain more about the role of this new organisation and answer questions regarding ACECQA’s oversight responsibilities.

11:55 – 12:35

Adapting the EYLF in Very Remote Communities – [Alison Elliott](#)

It is possible to adapt the EYLF to suit certain early childhood services that might find it difficult to meet all compliance conditions. Professor Alison Elliott has been working on a number of initiatives in this area and will outline how to adapt the new framework so that it meets the needs of very remote communities and at the same time preserves the integrity of the EYLF.

12:35 – 12:45

Sponsor Address

12:45 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 14:30

Emergent Philosophies: Reggio Emilia and Montessori – [Maree Matthews](#)

Looking Through the Lens: Is it Never the Twain Shall Meet? The similarities and differences between Montessori and the Reggio Emilia approach make for intriguing professional dialogue. This presentation will provide a snapshot about the historical perspective, philosophy, curriculum, teachers and students, environments, enquiry and mastery. Consideration for the thinking behind what and why we ‘do’ will act as perfect provocations in search of best practice for our 21st century learners.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN SCHEDULE



SATURDAY 31 MARCH 2012 (continued)

14:30 – 15:15

Belonging, Being and Becoming: Re-discovering not Reinventing the Wheel – Amy Kirkham

This presentation will draw links between Montessori pedagogy and the EYLF. Since 1907, Montessori has placed more focus on the '3 Bs' rather than the '3 Rs'. In this talk we discuss how principles are applied in practice and how EYLF outcomes are being met in a Montessori context.

15:15 – 15:45

Afternoon Tea

15:45 – 17:00

Communicating Effectively with Parents and Staff – Laura Shaw

Family therapists use practical and useful tools to discern relationship patterns within a family system. These tools can be applied to any system, including that of the whole ECEC centre. Relationships between centre management, staff, children and parents can be graphically mapped, thereby providing a clear "larger picture" perspective so that issues within the centre can be viewed in their current and historical context. From there, centre managers and staff can identify potential solutions to problems within the system and even be able to predict how such solutions might affect the system's various parts. This talk will provide both systems theory and practical applications.

19:00 – 19:30

Optional Dinner and Guest Speaker

Canapés and Pre Dinner Drinks

19:30 – 20:30

Dinner

20:30 – 21:15

Keynote Address: Prepare to Win – Derrick McManus

On the 3rd May 1994 Snr. Constable Derrick McManus was shot 14 times with a high-powered rifle, lying on the ground for 3 hours before he could be rescued. He not only survived but also returned first to his family and then, despite all medical predictions, to his work with the elite Special Tasks and Rescue (STAR) Group. Be inspired by Derrick's zest for life and competition, learn how to overcome your biggest challenges and how to triumph where others believe it's impossible – personally and professionally.

21:15 – 22:00

Dessert, Tea and Coffee



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN SCHEDULE



SUNDAY 1 APRIL 2012

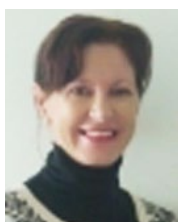
09:00 – 10:00	MORNING SESSION Registration and Exhibitors
10:00 – 11:00	Parenting Styles and Child Development Outcomes: What the Science Tells Us – Steve Hughes How do you demonstrate love to your child? How do you discipline your child? What emotions and beliefs control your parenting choices? How you answer these questions can say a lot about your parenting style, and your parenting style can have a profound impact on your child's success, happiness, and choices for the rest of his or her life (scared yet?). The good news is that developmental researchers have, for many years, known a tremendous amount about how different parenting styles can impact long-term outcomes. The bad news? Some common, well-intended behaviors to parenting have clear negative consequences. Think you're doing it right? Come and find out.
11:00 – 12:00	How to Have the Child You and Others Want – Amy Kirkham Children don't come with instruction manuals and they appear not to have read the parenting books many of us have studied. The attributes we admire in a child and strive to develop in our children include: sociability, empathy, consideration for others, ability to focus and follow through on tasks, initiative ... come to learn some strategies for supporting these and how you can have a house overflowing with 'grace and courtesy'.
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch (full day registrations only)
13:00 – 13:30	AFTERNOON SESSION Registration and Exhibitors
13:30 – 14:30	Kids Free 2B Kids – Julie Gale The sexualisation of children has been an increasing global issue over the past decade. Children are constantly bombarded with sexualised imagery from popular culture, advertising and marketing. Sexualisation is linked with increased depression, anxiety, body image problems and early sexual behaviour. This presentation will include visual examples of what children are exposed to and will discuss the important role both the community and child development professionals have in helping to create change.
14:30 – 15:30	The Core of Montessori – Laura Shaw Parents frequently ask, 'What is Montessori education?' Responses to this question vary widely but often include language about mixed-age classrooms, hands-on learning, and brain-based curriculum. While such responses are correct, they do not express the most important benefit – the core – of Montessori education and its contribution to the development of a child's authentic self-esteem. The Core of Montessori will demonstrate this benefit in terms that are truly relevant to parents and in a way that inspires their full support of this holistic developmental method.

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SPEAKERS



KAREN CURTIS is the Chief Executive Officer of ACECQA and has broad experience in both the public and private sectors. Karen worked for 22 years in the Commonwealth public sector holding senior roles including for six years as the Australian Privacy Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Privacy Commissioner. She was also Executive Director of the Australian Made Campaign and for seven years had an industry policy and advocacy role including for small business and regulation for the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Karen has governance, change management, service delivery, regulatory, policy, representational and media advocacy skills with extensive experience liaising with Ministers and senior executives in a range of portfolios, industry groups, and with the community.



ALISON ELLIOTT is on the Board of ACECQA and has extensive cross sectorial and cross jurisdiction experience in early education research, policy and management. She is widely recognised for her expertise in early childhood education and care and particularly in regard to young children's learning and wellbeing especially those in remote and economically vulnerable communities. Alison has held a range of academic and leadership positions in the university sector, has served on and/or held executive positions on a range boards, committees, and early childhood advisory and reference groups, published widely in the field of early education and care, and is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators. Alison is the long time editor of the leading professional publication Every Child.



LAURA FLORES SHAW is the Head of School at Oak Knoll Kinderhaus Montessori, California, USA. She holds a Master of Science degree in psychology and worked as a marriage and family therapist in the public school system with elementary and high school students and their families. After seeing the inner workings of the traditional public school system, she decided to focus her energy and attention on prevention rather than intervention and turned to Montessori. Laura has found that many concepts and principles she was exposed to in her graduate training are applicable in working with parents, children, and staff.



JULIE GALE is the founder of Kids Free 2B Kids. She is also a comedy writer and performer and has performed her one-woman show at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Julie has been raising public, corporate and political awareness about the sexualisation of children since February 2007. She has generated great media interest about the issue and has appeared on television, radio and in newspaper articles throughout Australia and internationally. Julie's work instigated changes to the children's advertising codes and she also helped to instigate the 2008 senate inquiry into the sexualisation of children in the contemporary media environment. Julie received a 2009 National Leadership Achievement Award from the Centre for Leadership for Women, and is named in the 2011 Australian Who's Who of Women.



CHRISTINE HARRISON has been involved in Montessori education since 1985 and was Principal of the Canberra Montessori School, one of the largest Montessori schools in Australia, for over ten years. She is the founding Chair of the Montessori Australia Foundation and was Chair of the Association of Independent Schools in the ACT and on the Board of the Independent Schools Council of Australia. Christine has been involved in policy development, compliance, student care, curriculum development and educational leadership in schools and has a background in mediation, conflict resolution, adult education and a particular interest in governance in community organisations.



STEVE HUGHES PhD, LP, ABPdN is President of the American Board of Pediatric Neuropsychology and Chair of the AMI Global Research Committee. Steve completed his PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Minnesota and his post-doctoral fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology at the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he joined the faculty of the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology in 2001. He specialises in the neuropsychological assessment of children and adolescents with a wide range of developmental and medical disorders, and assists in the supervision and training of future neuropsychologists. His research interests include measurement of attention and executive functioning in young children, the effects of living in poverty on child development, and the neurodevelopmental benefits of classical Montessori education.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN SPEAKERS



AMY KIRKHAM has been involved in Early Childhood Education since 1988. In addition to the AMI 3-6 Diploma and AMI Trainer Certificate, she holds a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Diploma of Teaching (Early Childhood), a Bachelor of Educational Studies (Hearing Impairment) and Master of Education. Amy is the 3-6 AMI Director of Training for the Australian Montessori Teacher Education Foundation in Melbourne and on the Sunshine Coast. She is also on the Faculty of Trainers for ITCMEC in Shanghai, China. Amy is actively involved in the provision of professional development for Montessori staff as well as parent and community education. She is currently serving on several Australian committees focusing on Montessori research, Quality Assurance and the Australian National Curriculum.



BARBARA LANGFORD was drawn to Montessori nearly 25 years ago through experiencing the wonderful nurturing given to her son when he attended a Montessori home-based pre-school. She went on to gain her MWEI diploma and eventually to start the Jescott Montessori Pre-school. Barbara formed a business partnership with Barbara Nache and Adriana Francescangeli, and together established five successful Montessori Pre-schools in Adelaide. They formed a management company called JSC Montessori Pre-schools Pty Ltd which oversees issues of employment, training, program development, marketing and strategic planning. Barb is President of Childcare South Australia, a member on the Advisory Committee for the undergraduate training program in Early Childhood Education at the University of South Australia, and a member of the Children's Care and Education Forum. In 2009 Barbara became President of Childcare Associations Australia.



MAREE MATTHEWS is the Principal of Plenty Valley Montessori School in Melbourne. She is trained in both Early Childhood, Primary Education and Principal Leadership. Maree completed her Doctorate in Action Research and the Reggio Emilia approach. Maree has worked in city, rural and international schools and is also the proud mother of two beautiful children.



DERRICK MCMANUS has been a member of S.A. Police for over 30 years, being awarded the inaugural SA Police Bravery Medal in 1989 when, prior to STAR Division, he and his partner wrestled a gun from the hands of the man intent on shooting them. On 3 May 1994 Senior Constable Derrick McManus was shot 14 times with a high-powered semi-automatic weapon. With broken bones and severed arteries he lay bleeding to death for three hours before he could be rescued, during South Australia's longest running siege. Derrick survived and in doing so demonstrated that individuals can defy the odds; nothing is impossible. He also has a long history of community involvement ranging some 30 years and was awarded an Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year Award in 1986. Through his role in STAR Division he has run Team Building workshops for leading companies and sporting bodies, has addressed conferences and seminars and worked with non-profit organisations and community groups. In 1997 he was appointed Ambassador to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, having received 24 units of blood and blood products following the Nuriootpa shooting.



THE HON. GRACE PORTOLESI is the member for Hartley, South Australia, having won the seat at the 2006 state election. Previously the parliamentary secretary assisting the Attorney-General, Grace is now the SA Minister for Education and Child Development. She has been a vocal supporter of paid maternity leave, and established a select committee on work/life balance in her first year as the Member for Hartley. She dedicated her election to 'working mums', and spoke in her maiden speech of the 'struggle to juggle' – the work/life balance.



MEGAN TYNE holds the AMI 3-6 Diploma and a BA DipEd and has been involved in Montessori education since 1985. With a professional background in computers, finance and marketing she has assisted numerous Montessori associations both in Australia and overseas. She was Chairperson of the International Montessori Centenary Committee and is website designer for several Montessori organisations including the Association Montessori Internationale. Megan also assists with Indigenous Montessori projects in Australia and attended the 2004 Educateurs sans Frontières assembly held in Burgos, Spain. She is currently Executive Director of the Montessori Children's Foundation and the Montessori Australia Foundation and Project Officer for the Association Montessori Internationale.

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ACCOMMODATION Participants are asked to book their accommodation directly with the hotel. Please mention the booking code "Montessori" when making reservations. The special accommodation rate for conference delegates is \$179.00 for a superior queen room and there is free carparking (subject to availability). For hotel reservations call 08 8212 1277 or book online at www.rydges.com

REGISTER online at montessori.org.au or fill in and return the form below

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support and contributions enabling reduced registration fees for our participants.

RATES	SUBSCRIBERS*	NON-SUBSCRIBERS
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1: Saturday 31 March and Sunday 1 April 2012 Both Days, special combined price	<input type="checkbox"/> \$330	<input type="checkbox"/> \$380
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2: Saturday 31 March 2012 Only – Full day including lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$210	<input type="checkbox"/> \$240
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 3: Sunday 1 April 2012 Only – Full day including lunch	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$160
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 4: Sunday Morning Session Only		\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 5: Sunday Afternoon Session Only		\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner and Guest Speaker		\$80

*Discounted rates for Montessori Australia Foundation Individual Subscribers or Staff and Parents of School/Centre Subscribers.

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