

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Saturday

- 8.00am            **Registration**
- 8.45am            Welcome to Country
- 8.50am            Housekeeping
- 9.00am            Official Opening
- 9.20am            **Keynote Speaker:**
- 10.00am           Morning Tea
- 10.30am        **Compulsory Workshop; ELYF Presentation**
- 12.30pm           Lunch
- 1.15pm           Concurrent Workshops Session A
- 3.15pm           Afternoon Tea
- 3.30pm           Concurrent Workshops Session B
- 5.30pm           Closure of Day 1
- 6.30pm           Pre dinner Drinks (Wine Tasting)  
Level 15 Burley Griffin Restaurant
- 7.30pm           Conference Dinner: Sponsored by Altoria Insurance  
Burley Griffin Restaurant: Level 15

## Sunday

- 8.00am            **Registration**
- 9.00am            Concurrent Workshop Session C
- 11.00am           Morning Tea
- 11.30am           Concurrent Workshop Session D
- 1.45pm            **Closure of Conference**
- 2.00pm            Lunch

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS: SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010.**

### **9.20AM-10.00AM: KEYNOTE SPEAKER: MARCUS PEDRO: TEAM BUILDING:**

Marcus's motivational speeches highlight the value of self confidence, self control and self respect. He addresses the importance of having passions, a vision of believing in your dreams. He will use humour and symbolism to assist people to understand the role they have in the prevention of bullying and racism. His speech also explores the influence of American culture on contemporary Australian society e.g.: Hip-Hop music and clothing. He will encourage people to be themselves and be proud to be Australian.

### **10.30AM-12.30AM: COMPULSORY WORKSHOP: ELYF: WENDY SHEPHERD**

Belonging, Being and Becoming – The Early Learning Years Framework is Australia's first National framework for early childhood educators. Its aim is to extend and enrich children's learning from birth to five years and through the transition to school. This training session is designed to give early year's educators and services tools to implement the ELYF in their service.

## **1.15PM-3.15PM: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 1**

### **INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES: BILINGUALISM & LANGUAGE LEARNING**

There are many beliefs and advantages in raising children in a bilingual environment and these include intellectual and linguistic competence and the increased capacity for children to connect with family and the extended community. These elements of bilingualism will be explored along with the different types of bilingualism and the ways in which children become bilingual. The role of the educator in supporting and strengthening bilingualism is highlighted.

### **BUILDING BRIDGE: ABORIGINAL PERSPECTIVES IN CHILDREN'S SERVICE: PART 1 & 2**

This is a 2 part workshop over 2 sessions and will explore:

- Aboriginal culture and history – implications of past history for contemporary Aboriginal families
- Engaging the Aboriginal community – protocols and tips for working with Aboriginal families
- Stereotypes and misinformation – Moving beyond tourism – implementing culturally appropriate practices and accessing resources

### **LEADING & MANAGING: STEPS TO SUCCESS: PART 1 & 2**

This workshop over 2 sessions will provide opportunities for participants to refine current processes and practices at their centre as well as exploring new ideas for developing and maintaining a high quality centre. Addressing crucial issues such as building relationships, recruiting and retaining staff, financial planning and budgeting, creating enriched environments and managing the paper trail. This course is a must for individuals newly responsible for an occasional child care centre.

### **ACCIDENTAL COUNSELLOR**

During this session we will identify the existing strengths and skills of what early childhood staff bring to building relationships with families. We will also discuss fears and the role confusion in relation to distressed or agitated family members build on response skills. Understand and contribute to a supportive community environment.

### **SUPPORTING THE COMMUNICATION OF CHILDREN WITH ASD**

During this session, Jenni will talk about ways to support the receptive and expressive communication of children with autism spectrum disorder. She will also share many practical

strategies to support the development of communication and will introduce you to the use of visual supports.

## **3.30PM-5.30PM: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 2**

### **BEING CHILD SAFE AND FRIENDLY**

This workshop has been developed by the NSW Commission for Children and Young People to promote the safety and well being of children and young people. It provides participants with sensible advice, information and resources that will help organisations implement child-safe and child friendly policies and practices. This workshop assists organisations in their work with children and young people, specifically to increase their knowledge and skills in recognising and preventing child abuse. Participants will have the opportunity to explore the issues and processes involved in being a child safe child friendly organisation.

### **CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

Where a workplace depends on social interaction, conflict is inevitable and welcome. Conflict in early childhood settings can become an important issue with colleagues often reporting the breakdown of communication and interpersonal relationships. Together we will consider approaching conflict in a positive manner to strengthen our relationships and resolve conflict and stay healthy

### **SUPPORTING THE PLAY AND LEARNING OF CHILDREN WITH ASD**

Jessica and Maryanne will present an interactive workshop around supporting the play of young children with autism spectrum disorder. They will also look at ways of identifying and supporting children's sensory needs and ways to develop social interaction and imaginative play.

## **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS: SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010.**

### **9.00AM-11.00AM: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 3**

#### **MOTIVATE TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE**

“Change is inevitable, growth is intentional”.

Changes within children's services are inevitable and these can range from implementing a new curriculum approach to changing procedures with a room at transition time. This workshop aims to empower those who work to bring about change and promote growth in their service. The change management cycle will be explored along with effective approaches and methods of facilitating change as well as strategies for motivating staff to embrace change in their work environment and daily practice.

#### **EXPLORING THE WORLD OF 0-2's**

Working with under 2's is a unique experience. Both demanding and rewarding. It is essential we understand children's development in these early years to think about the challenges we face in our early childhood setting with very young children. What are our primary concerns in working with babies and toddlers and where are the gaps in our knowledge? How can staff be supported in our time with babies and toddlers? How does the EYLF relate to children under 2? You will have the opportunity to talk with other educators about the experiences and joys of working with under 2's

#### **LEADING GREAT TEAMS BY UNDERSTANDING & EMPATHISING WITH DIFFERENT PERSONALITIES**

In this workshop we will focus upon strengthening our empathic behaviours and learn about perspectives different from our own. We will learn about our dominate style and the dominate style of the members in the teams we lead. We will also focus upon long lasting leadership strategies and at the same time have some fun.

### **LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND LEARNING**

Language and learning go together like a hand in a glove. But where does literacy fit in? This workshop will draw on all three areas together. It will give information and practical strategies to incorporate the development of language, the process of learning and the skills of literacy in children's educational and care settings. We will discuss how to create a "print-friendly" environment for children, have positive book experiences in a range of settings, use book sharing to develop conversation and language and promote language for learning. Lots of interaction and opportunities to ask questions and information will be provided

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT: MAKING MEALTIMES POSITIVE FOR EVERYONE**

Have you ever thought mealtimes should be more fun and relaxed? Accepting difficult mealtimes isn't the only option. This workshop will explore options for creating positive mealtime experiences. It identifies factors that impact on mealtimes and fussy eaters including environment, cultural issues, communication and sensory preferences. Strategies to address these issues will be explored. (NB: This workshop will not address individual needs of children with complex/medical feeding difficulties)

## **11.00AM-1.30PM: CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS: SESSION 4**

### **INSPIRING CREATIVITY THROUGH IMAGINATIVE ENVIRONMENTS**

How can you inspire creativity in your environment and in yourself? This session will help you to see the environment from a child's perspective and will give you a creative boost! We will take an adventurous journey into rethinking our learning environment to inspire children, educators and families. We will also take a look at how our environment can be full of wonder for all and most of all we remember the artist and the child within

### **TEACHING CHILDREN SOCIAL SKILLS: STRATEGIES FOR STAFF IN EARLY CHILDHOOD**

This workshop focuses on the specifics needed to promote development of social skills in children (birth to 6 years). During these years the foundation of social development is established. Michelle will demonstrate activities and strategies that support the early development of skills needed for reciprocal play: turn taking and sharing: recognition and expression of emotions: negotiation and compromise: establishing and maintaining friendships: conversation skills and interacting within a group.

### **THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: SUSTAINABILITY**

As the need to protect our environment becomes more pressing, children's services need to take a lead role in creating sustainable environments and ensuring children are strongly connected to their natural environment. This presentation will explore the importance of linking curriculum and environment conversation in children's services. It will delve into the connections children make with their natural environment and how a dynamic thriving outdoor space can foster learning and positive behaviour. Participants will look at how to involve their children, families and the community in developing and nurturing a curriculum rich outdoor environment which is also sustainable and eco-friendly.

## **LET'S GET KIDS FIT**

In this hands on workshop you will learn new ways to add fun and physical activity to your programming (and probably revisit some old ways as well). From fitness to yoga, ropes, balls, balance and play. Ideas on what to use, how to use it and where to get it. Let's get our kids moving, learning, laughing and .....loving it

## **NURTURING CHILDREN'S WELLBEING**

The well-being of young children is fundamental to their existence and experiences in an early childhood program. Central to this well-being is the facilitation of a sense of belonging and the fostering of children's relationships with others. During this presentation participants will discuss the various ways in which children's well-being can be enhanced and facilitated.