

**THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026****07 30** Conference Registration opens**08 45** Master of Ceremonies | Dr Karen Struthers

Welcome to Country | Jiritju Fourmile

Queensland Premier's Message | By Honourable Bree James MP

Official Welcome | Mayor Amy Eden, Cairns Regional Council

**09 30** Keynote | Anne Hollonds, CEO, Early Learning and Care Council of Australia. *In Conversation with Anne Hollonds AO* | Trinity Room | Brought to you by Queensland Kids Partnership**10 20** Morning tea break and networking**10 35** Move to sessional rooms**10 40** Trinity Room**Susan Sharpe** - Principal Education & Research Advisor, The Creche & Kindergarten Association (C&K)

"Safe Othering: Managing Tensions Between Honouring Difference and Promoting Inclusion - Findings from Two Educator Dia logics"

M9**Roger Meany** - Convenor (Brains and Investment), Queensland Kids Partnership**Louise Denoon**

Executive Director, Community Partnerships, State Library of Queensland

"Building Brains and Bodies"

M10**Dr Sharleen Keleher** - ECEC Infant Mental Health Statewide Coordinator, Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health**Dr Anita Eggington** - Disaster Resilience, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership

"Building Resilience Together: Early Years Disaster Forums as a Model for Cross-Sector Collaboration"

M11**Dr Fran McCarthy** - Director**Charli Greenhalgh** - Early Childhood Educator**Sylah Costelloe** - Early Childhood Educator, Community Xchange

"Many Hands, Many Voices – Sharing our experiences in creating a model of early childhood education for First Nations Children"

M4**Daisy Ramsden** - Co-CEO, Abundant Education Consultancy

"What the Heck is Emotional Regulation?"

A Neuroscience-Based Framework to build safe and thriving learning communities"

**11 20** Move between sessions**11 25** Trinity Room**Kylie Ellison** – Director, Registered Counsellor, Kylie Ellison Therapy and Training

"The Anxiety Epidemic: How we got here, and how understanding Play is the key!"

M9**Sally Matheson** - Education Benalla Program Manager, Tomorrow Today**Dr Jen Jackson** - Executive Officer, Tomorrow Today

"Education Benalla Program - how place-based collaboration is improving children's school readiness in a persistently disadvantaged community in regional Victoria"

M10**Kym Dunstan** - Project Officer, Children's Health Qld Hospital and Health Service**Claire Benham** - Director, Child Development Program, Children's Health Qld

"Child Development Milestones Checklist: A new resource to monitor children's development"

M11**Reenkuben Thakkar** - Child Development Specialist, The Benevolent Society

"Growing Together – The Impact of Students and Volunteers in Early Years Services"

M4**Debra Thompson** - Multicultural Health Worker, Queensland Health

"Building Cultural Capacity in Early Childhood – Pacifikai "Train the Trainer" Initiative

**12 05** Lunch Break and networking**12 50** Move to next session**12 55** Keynote | Dylan Cliff, A/Professor School of Education, University of Wollongong | *Digital technology use in early childhood: How harmful is it and what can we do about it?* | Trinity Room**13 45** Move between sessions**13 50** Trinity Room**Nicole Gentile** - Educational Leader, Mini Masterminds Early Learning

"Embedding Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education through Reflective and Intentional Teaching"

M9**Thomas Wintzloff** Program Manager, Mission Australia

"Mapping the First 2000 Days: Building Shared Insight for Systems Change in Cairns South"

M10**Fiona Nave** - Principal Lead – First 2000 Days, Health and Wellbeing Queensland

"Using Social Media as an Educational Tool"

M11**Madeline Mayberry** - Senior Speech Pathologist, The Benevolent Society

"Building a brighter future. Enabling families to drive early intervention in a community infant playgroup"

M4**Caterina Veidt** - Speech Pathologist**Olivia San Gil** - Team Leader, Individual Supports, Act for Kids  
"True Early Intervention: Building Family Capacity through Supported Playgroups"**14 40** Move between sessions**14 45** Trinity Room**Rhi Sugars** - Director, The Atypical Educator

"Speaking Up, Reaching Out - Collaborating with families about their child's development"

M9**Tess Gregory** - Principal Research Fellow**Yasmin Harman-Smith** - Head, Early Years Systems Evidence, The Kids Research Institute Australia

"National trends in child development at school entry – Insights from 15 years of the AEDC"

M10**Mikaela Dammers** - Advanced Audiologist Program Manager, Healthy Hearing, Qld Health

"Strengthening Early Years Partnerships: A Collaborative Model Between Community Hearing Screening and the Department of Education Early Years Connect Team"

M11**Emily Gerber** - Kindergarten Director**Brittany Kinsmore** - Koorie Families as First Educators- Senior Case Worker, Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative Kindergarten

"Walking Together: Embedding Culture, Connection and Care"

M4**Anita Cubit** – Principal, Wonga Beach State School

"Trusting Partnerships: Early Identification and the Power of Collaboration in School Transitions"

**15 25** Afternoon Tea and move between sessions**15 40** Move to sessional rooms**15 45** Trinity Room**Natalie Brass & Sarah Hughes** Coaches & Co-Directors, SailAway Readers

"No Limits: Building Equity Through Oral Language and Literacy in Preschool Communities"

M9**Sarah Wilde** - Chair, Far North Early Childhood Network**Gilyan Thorn** - NQ Health Priorities Lead

"Strengthening Early Years Outcomes Through Integrated Regional Collaboration: The Far North Early Childhood Network Model"

M10**Justine Edward** - Campus Principal Cairns**Carolyn Grant** - Department of Education

"The Interconnection of Health, Wellbeing, and Early Learning for a Brighter Future"

M11**Emma Carmody** - Senior Design Specialist**Cathryn Hunter** - Practice Design Specialist, Parenting Research Centre

"Implementing the Brief Coaching Model: A Practice-Based Approach to Early Parenting Support"

M4**Claire Benham** - Director, Children's Health Qld**Kym Dunstan** - Project Officer, Children's Health Qld Hospital and Health Service

"How can we involve families of children with developmental concerns in co-designing supports while they wait for therapy?"

**16 15** Move between sessions**16 20** Trinity Room**Leigh Wilks** - Research Specialist, Parenting Research Centre

"Inspiring action: Exploring the ECEC-parent relationship and help-seeking behaviours from the 2025 Parenting Today national survey"

M9**Anna-Marie Kanaan** - Statewide Integrated Care Manager, Integrated Care Services

"Embedding Family's Voice in the design and delivery of Integrated Child and Family Hubs"

M10**Esther Memmott**

Clinical Supervisor – Parenting Clinician

**Samantha Foster** -Early Intervention Clinician Lead, Children's Health Queensland

"Bringing Up Great Kids in the First 1000 Days: Building Resilient Families through Connection and Care"

M10**Kristy Jensen** - Program Manager**Paula La Rosa** - CEO, Althea Project

"The Wee Care Program Model: Early Intervention for Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future"

M4**Sue Wilson** - Head of Transformation**Catherine Cooney**, Head of Program, Brave Foundation

"Building Resilience Through Relational Practices: Brave Foundation's Model of Mentoring"

**16 50** Move to Trinity Room**16 55** Day one reflections and close**17 15** Twilight Networking brought to you by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network until 18:15 on the Trinity Terrace

07 30 Registration Desk opens

08 35 MC Dr Karen Struthers

Cultural performance by Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji Dancers

Address by Hon John-Paul Langbroek MP

09 00 Keynote | Janise Mitchell, CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation | *Creating safety, protection and healing in relationships for at risk and traumatised children: The critical role of Early Years Professionals* | Brought to you by ACCCO in the Trinity Room

09 50 Move to next sessions

09 55 **Trinity Room****Eloise Markey**Early Childhood Teacher,  
Creche and Kindergarten  
Association

"The myth of the "easy" baby"

**M9****Nisrine El Choueifati**Principal Speech Pathologist,  
Talking Triumphs Speech  
Pathology"Communi Play: A Tiered Speech  
Therapy and Playgroup Model  
Embedding Foundational  
Supports in Vulnerable  
Communities"**M10****Caitlin Craner**Speech Pathologist/FASD Clinical  
Intake Officer, Townsville Hospital  
and Health Service**Dr Timothy Rossow**Clinical Psychologist, Department of  
Education (QLD)"Enhancing Outcomes Utilising Cross-  
Sector Partnerships: FASD in North  
Queensland"**M11****Keith Elaisa**

Coordinator

**Cat Uta**Project Officer, Connected  
Beginnings, Wuchopperen Health  
Service Ltd"Connecting early education, health  
and family support systems through  
culturally led governance"**M4****Donna Mahoney**

Principal Practitioner

**Paula Dickson** Counsellor, Innate  
Therapies Australia.

"Interplay Therapy"

10 35 Morning Tea Break and networking

10 50 Move to sessional rooms

10 55 **Trinity Room****Sarah Jackson**Early Childhood Teacher, C &  
K Dixon Street"Supporting children  
experiencing significant  
adversity and complex trauma  
using a multidisciplinary  
approach"**M9****Candel Nadruku**Client Liaison Officer, The  
Benevolent Society"Supporting Young Families: The  
Benevolent Society's Holistic  
Maternal and Child Health Hub in  
Logan"**M10****Louise Cunningham**Senior Manager, Child, Youth and  
Families.**Natalie Worthington**

Manager, Child &amp; Family Services

**Angela Hoy**Team Leader, Family Wellbeing  
Program, Uniting Vic Tas"Connected Early Support for Parents  
and Families"**M11****Liz Parriman**

Building Babies Brains Facilitator

**Debra Hannagan**  
Early Years Learning and Literacy  
Coordinator, Waardi Ltd"Developing place-based early  
learning initiatives for our  
communities: Insights from an  
Aboriginal-led organisation"**M4****Diane Cruice**Principal Project Officer,  
Queensland Health"From Vision to Action:  
Queensland Health's Model for  
Child and Family Health Wellbeing  
and Development"

11 40 Move between sessions

11 45 **Trinity Room****Nathan Gallagher**Training & Development Lead  
- Child Protection, Act For Kids"The Early Years Safety  
Threads Program: Embedding  
Protective Behaviours  
Education in Early Childhood"**M9****Rachael Beswick** - Director,  
Department of Health"From Policy to Practice:  
Implementing the Healthy Kindy  
Kids Program in Queensland"**M10****Alanna Philipson**Principal Program Officer, Children's  
Health Queensland**Anna Kinnane**Senior Project Officer, Children's  
Health Queensland"Connecting2u: Empowering  
Queensland Parents through  
Connection, Culture and Collaboration"**M11****Sarnia Ralston**

Qld Manager, NAPCAN

**Michelle Cole**Principal Partnership Manager –  
Capability Development QKP"Prevention In Action -  
Collaborating with Children,  
families and communities to shift  
conversations into action"**M4****Miranda Edwards**

EYS WA Director, SNAICC

**Tara Leslie**CEO, Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child  
& Family Centre Nowra"Impactful collaboration through a  
co-developed early childhood  
education and care (ECEC)  
model"

12 25 Lunch and networking

13 15 Move to Trinity Room

13 20 Keynote | Campbell Paul, Infant Psychiatrist, Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne, the University of Melbourne and MCRI | *How can infant mental health contribute to better developmental and emotional outcomes for young children?* | Trinity Room

14 10 Move to next session

14 15 **Trinity Room****Kelly Oldfield**Founder & Behaviour  
Specialist, Child Behaviour  
Development"From Behaviour to Meaning:  
Understanding What Children  
Are Communicating"**M9****Geraldine Harris**Executive Director, Pathways to  
Resilience Trust**Dan Smith**Manager, Communities for  
Children Capricorn"Building the foundations of Equity  
-shifting the dial from children's  
participation to co-determination in  
place-based movements of  
collective action"**M10****Brigitte Corcoran**Senior Health Practitioner, Health and  
Wellbeing Queensland"Knowledge and Confidence of Child  
Health Nurses to support Preventive  
Health"**M11****Sarah Horton et al**Project Manager, Changing  
Health Systems Research Group"The Tracking Cube Across  
Sectors: Community-Led Weaving  
of Developmental Support"**M4****Hayley Natoli**Project Support Workers, Project  
Paradigm IFYS"It's never too early: Exploring  
Australian parents' and carers'  
experiences with child sexual  
abuse prevention"

15 10 Afternoon Tea

15 25 Move to the Trinity Room

15 30 Collaboration Space

16 30 Day Two Reflections and close