

DAY ONE 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. <i>In Conversation with Anne Hollonds AO Trinity Room Brought to you by Queensland Kids Partnership</i>				
10 20	Morning tea break and networking				
10 35	Move to sessional rooms				
10 40	<p>Trinity Room</p> <p>Susan Sharpe <i>Principle Education & Research Advisor, The Creche & Kindergarten Association (C&K)</i> "Safe Othering: Managing Tensions Between Honouring Difference and Promoting Inclusion - Findings from Two Educator Dia logics"</p>	<p>M9</p> <p>Roger Meany <i>Convenor (Brains and Investment), Queensland Kids Partnership</i> Louise Denoon <i>Executive Director, Community Partnerships, State Library of Queensland</i> "Building Brains and Bodies"</p>	<p>M10</p> <p>Dr Sharleen Keleher <i>ECEC Infant Mental Health Statewide Coordinator, Queensland Centre for Perinatal and Infant Mental Health</i> Dr Anita Eggington <i>Disaster Resilience, Thriving Queensland Kids Partnership</i> "Building Resilience Together: Early Years Disaster Forums as a Model for Cross-Sector Collaboration"</p>	<p>M11</p> <p>Dr Fran McCarthy <i>Director</i> Charli Greenhalgh <i>Early Childhood Educator</i> Sylah Costelloe <i>Early Childhood Educator, Community Xchange</i> "Many Hands, Many Voices – Sharing our experiences in creating a model of early childhood education for First Nations Children"</p>	<p>M4</p> <p>Daisy Ramsden <i>Co-CEO, Abundant Education Consultancy</i> "What the Heck is Emotional Regulation? A Neuroscience-Based Framework to build safe and thriving learning communities"</p>
11 20	Move between sessions				
11 25	<p>Trinity Room</p> <p>Kylie Ellison <i>Director/Registered Counsellor, Kylie Ellison Therapy and Training</i> "The Anxiety Epidemic: How we got here, and how understanding Play is the key!"</p>	<p>M9</p> <p>Sally Matheson <i>Education Benalla Program Manager, Tomorrow Today</i> Dr Jen Jackson <i>Executive Officer, Tomorrow Today</i> "Education Benalla Program - how place-based collaboration is improving children's school readiness in a persistently disadvantaged community in regional Victoria"</p>	<p>M10</p> <p>Kym Dunstan <i>Project Officer, Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service</i> Claire Benham <i>Director, Child Development Program, Children's Health Queensland</i> "Child Development Milestones Checklist: A new resource to monitor children's development"</p>	<p>M11</p> <p>Reenkuben Thakkar <i>Child Development Specialist, The Benevolent Society</i> "Growing Together – The Impact of Students and Volunteers in Early Years Services"</p>	<p>M4</p> <p>Debra Thompson <i>Multicultural Health Worker, Queensland Health</i> "Building Cultural Capacity in Early Childhood – Pacifikai "Train the Trainer" Initiative"</p>
12 05	Lunch Break and networking				

DAY ONE THURSDAY 21 MAY 2026 - CONTINUED					
12 50	Move to next session				
12 55	Keynote Dylan Cliff , Associate Professor School of Education, University of Wollongong. <i>Digital technology use in early childhood: How harmful is it and what can we do about it?</i> Trinity Room				
13 45	Move between sessions				
13 50	Trinity Room Nicole Gentile <i>Educational Leader, Mini Masterminds Early Learning</i> “Embedding Inclusive Practices in Early Childhood Education through Reflective and Intentional Teaching”	M9 Thomas Wintzloff <i>Program Manager, Mission Australia</i> “Mapping the First 2000 Days: Building Shared Insight for Systems Change in Cairns South”	M10 Fiona Nave <i>Principal Lead – First 2000 Days, Health and Wellbeing Queensland</i> “Using Social Media as an Educational Tool”	M11 Madeline Mayberry <i>Senior Speech Pathologist, The Benevolent Society</i> “Building a brighter future. Enabling families to drive early intervention in a community infant playgroup”	M4 Caterina Veidt <i>Speech Pathologist</i> Olivia San Gil <i>Team Leader, Individual Supports, Act for Kids</i> “True Early Intervention: Building Family Capacity through Supported Playgroups”
14 40	Move between sessions				
14 45	Trinity Room Rhi Sugars <i>Director, The Atypical Educator</i> “Speaking Up, Reaching Out - Collaborating with families about their child’s development”	M9 Tess Gregory <i>Principal Research Fellow</i> Yasmin Harman-Smith <i>Head, Early Years Systems Evidence, The Kids Research Institute Australia</i> “National trends in child development at school entry – Insights from 15 years of the AEDC”	M10 Mikaela Dammers <i>Advanced Audiologist Program Manager, Healthy Hearing, Queensland Health</i> “Strengthening Early Years Partnerships: A Collaborative Model Between Community Hearing Screening and the Department of Education Early Years Connect Team”	M11 Emily Gerber <i>Kindergarten Director</i> Brittany Kinsmore <i>Koorie Families as First Educators- Senior Case Worker</i> <i>Bendigo and District Aboriginal Co-operative Kindergarten</i> “Walking Together: Embedding Culture, Connection and Care”	M4 Anita Cubit <i>Principal, Wonga Beach State School</i> “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 <i>Coach & Co-Directors, SailAway Readers</i> “No Limits: Building Equity Through Oral Language and Literacy in Preschool Communities”	M9 Sarah Wilde <i>Chair, Far North Early Childhood Network</i> Gilyan Thorn <i>NQ Health Priorities Lead</i> “Strengthening Early Years Outcomes Through Integrated Regional Collaboration: The Far North Early Childhood Network Model”	M10 Justine Edward <i>Campus Principal Cairns, Department of Education</i> Carolyn Grant <i>Department of Education</i> “The Interconnection of Health, Wellbeing, and Early Learning for a Brighter Future”	M11 Emma Carmody <i>Senior Design Specialist, Parenting Research Centre</i> Cathryn Hunter <i>Practice Design Specialist, Parenting Research Centre</i> “Implementing the Brief Coaching Model: A Practice-Based Approach to Early Parenting Support”	M4 Claire Benham <i>Director, Children’s Health Queensland</i> Kym Dunstan <i>Project Officer, Children’s Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service</i> “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 <i>Research Specialist, Parenting Research Centre</i> “Inspiring action: Exploring the ECEC-parent relationship and help-seeking behaviours from the 2025 Parenting Today national survey”	M9 Anna-Marie Kanaan <i>Statewide Integrated Care Manager, Integrated Care Services</i> “Embedding Family’s Voice in the design and delivery of Integrated Child and Family Hubs”	M10 Esther Memmott <i>Clinical Supervisor – Parenting Clinician</i> Samantha Foster <i>Early Intervention Clinician Lead, Children’s Health Queensland</i> “Bringing Up Great Kids in the First 1000 Days: Building Resilient Families through Connection and Care”	M10 Kristy Jensen <i>Program Manager</i> Paula La Rosa <i>CEO, Althea Project</i> “The Wee Care Program Model: Early Intervention for Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s Future “	M4 Sue Wilson <i>Head of Transformation, Brave Foundation</i> Catherine Cooney <i>Head of Program, Brave Foundation</i> “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				

DAY TWO FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026					
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 <i>Creating safety, protection and healing in relationships for at risk and traumatised children: The critical role of Early Years Professionals</i> Brought to you by ACCCO in the Trinity Room				
09 50	Move to next sessions				
09 55	<p>Trinity Room</p> <p>Eloise Markey</p> <p>Early Childhood Teacher, Creche and Kindergarten Association</p> <p>“The myth of the “easy” baby”</p>	<p>M9</p> <p>Nisrine El Choueifati</p> <p>Principal Speech Pathologist, Talking Triumphs Speech Pathology</p> <p>“Communi Play: A Tiered Speech Therapy and Playgroup Model Embedding Foundational Supports in Vulnerable Communities”</p>	<p>M10</p> <p>Caitlin Craner</p> <p>Speech Pathologist/FASD Clinical Intake Officer, Townsville Hospital and Health Service</p> <p>Dr Timothy Rossow</p> <p>Clinical Psychologist, Department of Education (QLD)</p> <p>“Enhancing Outcomes Utilising Cross-Sector Partnerships: FASD in North Queensland”</p>	<p>M11</p> <p>Keith Elaisa</p> <p>Coordinator</p> <p>Cat Uta</p> <p>Project Officer, Connected Beginnings, Wuchopperen Health Service Ltd</p> <p>“Connecting early education, health and family support systems through culturally led governance”</p>	<p>M4</p> <p>Donna Mahoney</p> <p>Principal Practitioner</p> <p>Paula Dickson</p> <p>Counsellor, Innate Therapies Australia.</p> <p>“Interplay Therapy”</p>
10 35	Morning Tea Break and networking				
10 50	Move to sessional rooms				
10 55	<p>Trinity Room</p> <p>Sarah Jackson</p> <p>Early Childhood Teacher, C & K Dixon Street</p> <p>“Supporting children experiencing significant adversity and complex trauma using a multidisciplinary approach”</p>	<p>M9</p> <p>Candel Nadruku</p> <p>Client Liaison Officer, The Benevolent Society</p> <p>“Supporting Young Families: The Benevolent Society’s Holistic Maternal and Child Health Hub in Logan”</p>	<p>M10</p> <p>Louise Cunningham</p> <p>Senior Manager, Child, Youth and Families.</p> <p>Natalie Worthington</p> <p>Manager, Child & Family Services</p> <p>Angela Hoy</p> <p>Team Leader, Family Wellbeing Program, Uniting Vic Tas</p> <p>“Connected Early Support for Parents and Families”</p>	<p>M11</p> <p>Liz Parriman</p> <p>Building Babies Brains Facilitator</p> <p>Debra Hannagan</p> <p>Early Years Learning and Literacy Coordinator, Waardi Ltd</p> <p>“Developing place-based early learning initiatives for our communities: Insights from an Aboriginal-led organisation”</p>	<p>M4</p> <p>Diane Cruice</p> <p>Principal Project Officer, Queensland Health</p> <p>“From Vision to Action: Queensland Health’s Model for Child and Family Health Wellbeing and Development”</p>
11 40	Move between sessions				
11 45	<p>Trinity Room</p> <p>Nathan Gallagher</p> <p>Training & Development Lead - Child Protection, Act For Kids</p> <p>“The Early Years Safety Threads Program: Embedding Protective Behaviours Education in Early Childhood”</p>	<p>M9</p> <p>Rachael Beswick</p> <p>Director, Department of Health</p> <p>“From Policy to Practice: Implementing the Healthy Kindy Kids Program in Queensland”</p>	<p>M10</p> <p>Alanna Philipson</p> <p>Principal Program Officer, Children’s Health Queensland</p> <p>Anna Kinnane</p> <p>Senior Project Officer, Children’s Health Queensland</p> <p>“Connecting2u: Empowering Queensland Parents through Connection, Culture and Collaboration”</p>	<p>M11</p> <p>Sarnia Ralston</p> <p>Qld Manager, NAPCAN</p> <p>Michelle Cole</p> <p>Principal Partnership Manager – Capability Development QKP</p> <p>“Prevention In Action - Collaborating with Children, families and communities to shift conversations into action”</p>	<p>M4</p> <p>Miranda Edwards</p> <p>EYS WA Director, SNAICC</p> <p>Tara Leslie</p> <p>CEO, Cullunghutti Aboriginal Child & Family Centre Nowra</p> <p>“Impactful collaboration through a co-developed early childhood education and care (ECEC) model”</p>
12 25	Lunch and networking				

DAY TWO | FRIDAY 22 MAY 2026 | CONTINUED

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	<u>Trinity Room</u> Kelly Oldfield <i>Founder & Behaviour Specialist, Child Behaviour Development</i> "From Behaviour to Meaning: Understanding What Children Are Communicating"	<u>M9</u> Geraldine Harris <i>Executive Director, Pathways to Resilience Trust</i> Dan Smith <i>Manager, Communities for Children Capricorn</i> "Building the foundations of Equity - shifting the dial from children's participation to co-determination in place-based movements of collective action"	<u>M10</u> Brigitte Corcoran <i>Senior Health Practitioner, Health and Wellbeing Queensland</i> "Knowledge and Confidence of Child Health Nurses to support Preventive Health"	<u>M11</u> Sarah Horton et al <i>Project Manager, Changing Health Systems Research Group</i> "The Tracking Cube Across Sectors: Community-Led Weaving of Developmental Support"	<u>M4</u> Hayley Natoli <i>Project Support Workers, Project Paradigm IFYS</i> "It's never too early: Exploring Australian parents' and carers' experiences with child sexual abuse prevention"
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15 10 **Afternoon Tea**

15 25 *Move to the Trinity Room*

15 30 **Collaboration Space**

16 30 **Day Two Reflections and close**

EARLY YEARS CONFERENCE 2026 CLOSED