



MONTESSORI ECEC CENTRE DIRECTORS FORUM 2017

Tuesday 17 October 2017, 10:00am-5:00pm

Novotel Brisbane Airport, 6-8 The Circuit Brisbane Airport QLD 4007

Price: \$270 (subscribers), \$360 (non subscribers)

Whether you're an experienced Centre Director, someone wanting to network, learn from and share with others or thinking about starting a Montessori ECEC Centre, this is the Forum you can't afford to miss.

There will be presentations from experienced and knowledgeable Centre Directors and a member of ACECQA's executive team as well as guided discussions on the various challenges of operating a Montessori ECEC Centre. This Forum will have a focus on staff and building a positive team culture in Montessori ECEC settings.

If you are a Centre Director, Centre administrator or finance officer, come along and be a part of the conversation.



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SCHEDULE

From 9:30am

Tea and coffee on arrival

10:00am-10:30am

Welcome and introductions

– [Christine Harrison, Managing Director, Education Services](#)

10:30-12:00pm

Opening a New Montessori ECEC Centre – Core Considerations and Business Planning

– [Barbara Langford, Executive Director, SA Montessori](#)

During her presentation, Barbara will share her experience of the challenges and highlights of starting a new centre. Unless you're well prepared, the journey can feel like navigating to a new destination, meeting unexpected road signs along the way saying 'Give Way' 'Proceed with Caution' 'Go Slow' 'No Entry' and even 'Dead End'! It can be frustrating, rewarding, enlightening, challenging, inspiring and even surprising. It will probably cost more than you budgeted and take longer than you hoped but there is no doubt that when you open the doors and the children arrive, it will be worth every step you took to get there.

12:00pm-1:00pm

Round Pegs: Building Your Montessori Centre's Own Human Cylinder Block

– [Vicki McKinnon, CEO, Building Futures Montessori](#)

We are all dedicated to providing the best possible Montessori environments and programmes, but buildings and equipment are of no use without a team of Montessori imbued professionals. Vicki will discuss the challenges, roadblocks and success strategies that contribute to the team you have and that you would like to build. Recognising that our educators are all individual – different, and yet permeated with Montessori congruent values and approaches – is like putting 'round pegs' in 'round holes' of different dimensions.

1:00pm-2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm-3:00pm

Managing Challenging Staff Issues – Case Studies From The Coal Face

– [Carmel Ellis, Manager/Director, Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House](#)

Managing staffing issues is one of the most challenging and time consuming roles for a Centre Director and yet it is an area which is often overlooked because we are too busy or not confident in dealing with them.

In this session, Carmel will examine some common issues facing Montessori ECEC Centres and provide a best practice guide for dealing with them so as to avoid escalation and protracted dispute. Carmel will provide a model for those difficult conversations in critical areas such as performance management, dealing with bullying claims and managing ill and injured workers.

3:00pm-3:30pm

ACECQA update on changes to NQS and Assessment and Ratings progress

– [Perry Campbell, Deputy National Education Leader and Senior Manager Educational Leadership, ACECQA](#)

An update from ACECQA on recent changes to the NQS and an update on Assessment and Ratings process with particular reference to Montessori ECEC centres/schools.

3:30pm-3:45pm

Afternoon Tea

3:45pm-4:45pm

Montessori Centre Director Expert Panel – Q & A Session

– [Carmel Ellis, Vicki McKinnon, Barbara Langford, Katie Denzin, Perry Campbell](#)

4:45pm-5:00pm

Wrap up and Conclusion



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SPEAKERS



PERRY CAMPBELL's career in the education and care sector spans close to 30 years. Perry has worked across a number of different service types in a range of roles. He worked for over 10 years with the NSW Regulatory Authority where he worked with all service types as authorised officer before becoming a regional manager and then working on the National Quality Framework implementation team. He has also spent six years teaching children's services qualifications with TAFE NSW. Perry joined ACECQA in 2012 as Manager, Consistency and Review where he worked closely with all states and territories to support the work of authorised officers. In 2016, Perry became ACECQA's Deputy National Education Leader and Senior Manager Educational Leadership.



KATIE DENZIN is the Managing Director of Montessori Australia's Resourcing Division and oversees the development of its online content. She also supports Montessori Australia through a variety of project management and childcare consultancy roles. Katie first became associated with Montessori in 2007 through her work in the remote communities of the Torres Strait. In partnership with MCF and the Torres Strait Islanders' Regional Education Council, she established Montessori 0-3 education programmes in 13 sites across the Far North Queensland region, including two long day care centres. Since having her daughter Lucy, Katie's passion has focused on ensuring all children in Australia have access to the highest quality Montessori education.



CARMEL ELLIS is the Manager/Director of the Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House (IMCH), a 168 place Long Day Care Centre in Brisbane, Queensland. Carmel ran her own business, Indooroopilly Montessori Pre-school Centre for over 20 years before selling and working for Edmund Rice Education Australia. Carmel worked in close consultation with a behaviour change specialist and was involved in the early writing of the internationally published "You Can Do It" Early Childhood Programme and the introduction into the Centre of a social/emotional guidance programme titled "Guided Choices". Carmel has ensured that the Centre encompasses an inclusion programme and she has been recognised personally as a winner of the ECIA Qld Chapter Quality Inclusive Practice Award in 2005, with staff at the Centre winning the team award for 2007.



CHRISTINE HARRISON has been involved in Montessori education since 1985. As well as having been Principal of the Canberra Montessori School, she was the founding Chair of Montessori Australia 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. Christine is President and senior consultant for Montessori Australia and is a member of the Advisory Council of the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI).



BARBARA LANGFORD has been a Montessori teacher for the past 25 years during which time she has established six highly regarded Montessori ECEC services in Adelaide. Her centres are all rated as 'Exceeding the National Quality Standard' and in addition, two of her centres have been awarded a rating of 'Excellent' by ACECQA. Barbara is a passionate advocate for raising the quality of education and care for young children. She spent many years as the President of both Childcare SA and also Childcare Associations Australia enabling her to champion at both a State and Federal Government level for the benefits of high quality early education for children.



VICKI MCKINNON has been involved in early childhood education for 22 years. Originally trained as a secondary teacher, she taught for 6 years before working in early childhood as her family moved into the child care sector. Always believing that children learn best when intrinsically motivated, Vicki grappled with making the secondary education structure as flexible as possible, and then trying to decrease the haphazard nature of early childhood. In 2001-2002 the light bulb went on as she studied Montessori under Mrs Duyker. Vicki has led centres in the Director position, provided consultancy to other services, designed and developed centres, worked at a strategic level with entities such as Childcare Queensland and made forays into the vocational training sector.

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ECEC Centre Directors Forum – QLD

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