



MONTESSORI CENTRE DIRECTORS FORUM 2018

Tuesday 16 October 2018, 10:00am-5:00pm

Crowne Plaza Surfers Paradise

2807 Gold Coast Highway, Surfers Paradise QLD 4217

Price: \$300 (Member), \$400 (Non-Member)

(\$20 late fee applies thereafter places permitting)

This forum presents a unique opportunity for Montessori centre directors to come together to share insights and experiences about common issues. This year we cover topics such as technology, culture and diversity, and marketing. It includes an update from ACECQA and includes time for panel discussions with experts and other leaders.



MONTESSORI CENTRE DIRECTORS FORUM PROGRAMME

From 9:30am

Tea and coffee on arrival

10:00am-10:30am

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

10:30am-11:30am

Which App? Technology Options in ECEC Services – [Derek McKinnon, Building Futures](#)

The opportunities for enhancing the Montessori Early Childhood Environment with technology solutions have increased rapidly in the past few years. From compliance, to programming to HR to communications to funding to administration, the list goes on, there is an “app for that”. What criteria and priorities should Montessori services and Educators consider when looking for and selecting technology for their service? What legislative factors are important? What practical factors are important? And how do we keep ‘the child’ the central focus of our endeavours amidst the temptations of technology?

11:30am-1:00pm

The Immersion of Culture into a Montessori Environment, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures – [Joanne Bosel, Avenues Montessori Children's House](#)

Australian Montessori communities face an increasing challenge to meet the demands of their ever-growing diverse community and meeting the requirements of the NQF. The challenges that lay before us are to meet the requirements of all our cultures without any of our approaches becoming tokenistic, merely to tick checklists; to meet the requirements under NQF criteria; and for our children and families to acknowledge all cultures, but in particular the history of our country and the custodians of this land. This is important, as the growing diversity within our families and staffing teams, reflect the changes to the makeup of the Australian population as a whole. How do we support, acknowledge and immerse each culture into our programs so that they have a strong sense of belonging within our community and contribute to the enrichment of our programmes. This presentation will focus upon Avenues Montessori's approach to cultural immersion, our journey to date on this topic and a discussion on other current approaches and best practice that are of interest.

1:00pm-2:00pm

Lunch

2:00pm-2:45pm

Ditch the Megaphone – Marketing Montessori – [Vicki McKinnon, Building Futures](#)

In an increasingly over-stimulated and information-abundant society, how does the Montessori Long Day Care service effectively market their service to parents of young children? What are the new priorities to seek in making your school or centre speak to the right parents and the right families? With early childhood services being closed due to oversupply, and high occupancy necessary for effective programs to be funded, where should effort and advertising dollar be spent? This session will explore how the current marketing trends translate into ideas and practices for your centre.

2:45pm-3:45pm

ACECQA Update – [Perry Campbell, ACECQA](#)

An update from ACECQA on changes to the NQS including a special Montessori and the NQS Game.

3:45pm-4:00pm

Afternoon Tea

4:00pm-4:50pm

Montessori Centre Director Expert Panel – Q & A Session
– [Carmel Ellis](#), [Vicki McKinnon](#), [Perry Campbell](#), [Joanne Bosel](#), [Derek McKinnon](#)

4:50pm-5:00pm

Wrap up and Conclusion



MONTESSORI CENTRE DIRECTORS FORUM

SPEAKERS



JOANNE BOSEL has worked within the Early Childhood sector for the last 20 years in the United Kingdom and Australia. She holds a Montessori Diploma, as well as Graduate Diploma's and Training Certificates, and has worked extensively in mainstream Early Childhood services, Montessori settings, and private schools. Jo's varied and extensive industry experience has provided her with the knowledge and capability to initiate and develop settings from inception, to establishment and operations of services. More recently, she has successfully developed and delivered the Avenues Montessori Children's House in Brisbane. Joanne also has a passion for establishing and connecting communities associated with the Children's House and seeking new ways to support sustainability within the early childhood sector.



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.



CARMEL ELLIS is the Managing 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 (EREA). Carmel worked in close consultation with a Behaviour Change specialist and was involved in the early writing of the internationally published (in 2004) "You Can Do It" Early Childhood Programme and the introduction into the Centre of a social/emotional guidance programme titled "Guided Choices". The latest innovation at the Centre is the establishment of a large self-contained nature based "Wilderness Playground" which provides the children with outdoor nature experiences and risk taking opportunities. Carmel has also worked extensively with an Industrial Relations Lawyer in relation to developing a best practice guide for understanding and managing challenging staffing issues.



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).



DEREK MCKINNON began his professional career in engineering before migrating to Software Development. In this field he has worked across international companies and proceeded to complete an MBA. More than ten years ago he joined the family company (Building Futures) where his role is Chief Financial Officer and Chief Information Officer. Over the past decade, Derek has overseen projects in CCMS compliant software development as well as supporting other Information Technology options.



VICKI MCKINNON originally trained as a secondary teacher, Vicki taught for 6 years before undertaking early childhood training 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. In the 22 years of work in the early childhood sector, 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.

REGISTRATION: ONLINE AT WWW.MONTESSORI.ORG.AU OR FILL IN AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW

Name: _____

Centre: _____

Centre Suburb: _____

Centre Phone: _____

Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Please indicate if you have special dietary requirements:

☐ Vegetarian ☐ Gluten Free ☐ Other _____

Please see our website for our event refund and privacy policies.

Montessori Centre Directors Forum – Surfers Paradise Tuesday, 16 October 2018 10:00am-5:00pm

My payment is included as follows (GST included):

☐ \$300 Member Or: ☐ \$400 Non-Member

Cheques payable to Montessori Australia.

ABN: 46 104 887 309

Payment Method: ☐ Cheque Or: ☐ Invoice School/Centre

Or charge my: ☐ Visa Card ☐ Mastercard

Cardholder's Name: _____

Card N°: _____ CCV: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Phone: 02 9986 2282 Fax: 02 9986 2281

Email: events@montessori.org.au

Register online at montessori.org.au

or send registration form to:

Montessori Australia

PO Box 82 Five Dock NSW 2046

