

Beginnings

Newsletter of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Qld Chapter) Inc

Save the Dates:

**Tentative
Professional
Development dates
for 2011 are:**

- **Brisbane**
5th March
- **Toowoomba**
2nd April
- **Townsville**
14th May



From the President

As 2010 draws to a close there is much to reflect upon and celebrate. The important work of many Early Childhood Intervention programs and services were recognised during Early Childhood Awareness Week at the Quality Inclusive Practice Awards in August. Six programs and services around the state of Queensland won awards from ECIA [QLD]. This is a wonderful celebration of recognising the work of dozens of people who contribute toward these outstanding nominations.

This is our fourth newsletter for the year. Our newsletters have changed this year as we strive toward producing quality information for our members. If you have any information to share that would be suitable for our newsletter please email us at eciaqld@bigpond.com

Providing training and development has continued to be a strong focus for ECIA QLD as many workshops were presented around the state. These workshops were attended by; parents of children with additional learning needs, Education Queensland and non-EQ staff and therapists. The workshops were very well attended and attendees provided us with valuable feedback about topics of interest and how we can provide further quality practical workshops during 2011. Currently we are exploring the possibility of running

workshops in the South East, Toowoomba and Townsville next year. We are seeking interest in exploring the logistics of presentations being delivered in other regional areas too.

The month of May saw the 9th Biennial National Conference in Canberra. Quality presentations were heard from **Professor Gerard Mahoney and Ms Annette Ellis MP, Federal Member for Canberra and Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Families, Community, Housing and Youth**, to name just a few. You can download these presentations and many more from this conference at <http://www.ecia.org.au/ecia/program.pdf>. Further to this our National President John Forster has produced a 2009-2010 report that follows this report.

Finally I would like to thank our hard working past executive team led by the tireless efforts of Sandra Schuptar. Sandra and the team focused on raising awareness of the significance and importance of providing quality early childhood intervention practises around the state of Queensland and celebrating the achievements of these programs and services for children with additional needs.

Have a great Christmas and New Year 2011.

Deb Smith



ECIA National President's Report (2009-2010)

ECIA National has had a very successful year and as a result there are many promising opportunities open to it.

9th Biennial National Conference

The highlight of 2010 was the 9th Biennial Conference held in Canberra. The preparation done by Jill Corcoran, Annemarie Banks and Sue Davies, the conference organisers and volunteers ensured a very successful event that was enjoyed by 413 delegates from across Australia and internationally. The keynote presentations by Professor Gerald Mahoney, Gail van Tatenhove, Denise Luscombe and Professor Margaret Sims furthered the field's discussion of the use of every day learning situations for children with disabilities and national early years reforms. Congratulations to all those involved, particularly Jill Corcoran as convener. Attendance showed a significant increase since the last conference held outside a large State capital city. The conference also proved profitable, enabling ECIA to continue its work.

10th Biennial National Conference

The next conference will be held in Perth in 2012. Denise Luscombe has agreed to convene the conference and organizers have been appointed. The provisional theme is: *Pathways to Participation: Engagement and choice for children and families*. It has been decided to also make this the 1st

Asia Pacific ECI Conference, given Perth's close proximity to South East Asia.

Relationships with the Australian Government

Perhaps the most significant development for ECIA (National) was the invitation to participate on the Stakeholder Reference Group for the development of the National Quality Standards. This is indicative of a growing recognition by the Australian Government to consult with ECIA about children with disabilities and their families. More generally recognition has been slow. The Australian Government announced its extension to Helping Children with Autism, called *Better Start for Children with Disabilities*, without any consultation with the field. The Australian Government programs continue to run parallel to State Funded programs and offer another layer of difficulty for families.

2nd National Planning Day

ECIA (National) hosted its 2nd National Planning Day in Victoria to take advantage of a visit by Drs Virginia Buisse and Sharon Irwin. The day was successful in raising the profile of children with disabilities in the context of the new Early Years Agenda. It was also evident that any developments would need to be pursued through this agenda. The idea of an agreed statement on inclusion was well supported when trialed at the ECIA Conference in September 2010.



Beginnings

Other activities

I would like to thank Councillors and the members of the State and Territory Chapters for their works throughout the year. While this takes different shape in different Chapters, from activities in ECI Week to Kites for Kids, it is underpinned by an ongoing commitment to children with disabilities and their families.

Opportunities

As I reported last year, there are both opportunities and challenges ahead, including:

- Co-ordinating State services with Helping Children with Autism and its new expansion.
- Working more closely with the Inclusion and Professional Support Program on a shared inclusion agenda.
- Taking advantage of the Australian Dollar and low airfares offers across Australia to further opportunities in international professional development.
- Strengthening the relationship between the different parts of the early

years to ensure children with disabilities benefit from reform.

I would like to particularly thank Annemarie Banks who retired from Council this year, for her wonderful contribution to ECIA and the conference in Canberra, and Rilla Heron and Marion Wilde for their long standing and considerable involvement. It is a point of generational change. My thanks also to Trish and Denise for their constant advice. Finally, as this is my last year as President, I would like to thank the Council for the opportunity to take on this challenging role.

John Forster

National President

November, 2010



Professional Development Opportunities



positive
partnerships

Supporting school aged students on the
Autism Spectrum

Two Day Workshop and Information Sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of School Aged Students on the Autism Spectrum

Workshop: QLDPC24 **Location:** LOGAN

The two day workshop and information sessions for parents/ carers of school aged students on the autism spectrum are part of the Positive Partnerships: supporting school aged students on the autism spectrum initiatives. These initiatives are funded by the Department of Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through the Australian Government's Helping Children with Autism package, and also includes a national professional development program for teachers and other school staff. The Positive Partnerships initiatives are being developed and delivered by the Australian Autism Education & Training Consortium (AAETC).

What will you learn?

As a result of participating in the workshops and information sessions as parents/carers you will gain:

- information on the most up to date information about ASD and how this directly impacts on your child's learning at school;
- an understanding about the processes and strategies for effective parent, school and teacher partnerships;
- specific strategies on how to advocate to support your child's participation and ongoing learning needs;
- information about your local school system's processes to support learning at all stages of the educational pathway; and
- opportunities for you to network with other parents/carers and local support personnel.

Workshop details

Venue: Logan Diggers
42-44 Blackwood Road Logan Central

When: Two-Day Workshop – 1 & 2 March 2011
Day 1: 9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m (Registration from 8.15am)
Day 2: Information Sessions 9 a.m – 4.00 p.m

Registration opens 6 weeks before the workshop, and closes 1 week prior.

Registration may stay open up to one day before the workshop if spaces are still available, but we strongly recommend that you register as soon as possible.

You will receive a confirmation of your registration.

Online registrations preferred: please go to the website www.austimtraining.com.au. If you know of someone who wishes to attend but is unable to register online, please print this form for them to fax and/or mail to ensure a place.

Only complete the following form if you do not have access to the internet and fax or mail to:

Fax: 03 8610 2170; Mail: Think Business Events, Suite 6, 19 - 23 Hoddle St, Richmond VIC 3121

Positive Partnerships Info Line number: 1300 881 971



Australian Government
Department of Education, Employment
and Workplace Relations



Autism Excellence Australia
University of Canberra
Autism SA
Department of Education and Training, Western Australia
www.austimtraining.com.au



Supporting school aged students on the
Autism Spectrum

Two Day Workshop and Information Sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of School Aged Students on the Autism Spectrum

Workshop: QLDPC25 **Location:** BRISBANE CENTRAL

The two day workshop and information sessions for parents/ carers of school aged students on the autism spectrum are part of the *Positive Partnerships: supporting school aged students on the autism spectrum* initiatives. These initiatives are funded by the Department of Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through the Australian Government's Helping Children with Autism package, and also includes a national professional development program for teachers and other school staff. The *Positive Partnerships* initiatives are being developed and delivered by the Australian Autism Education & Training Consortium (AAETC).

What will you learn?

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- an understanding about the processes and strategies for effective parent, school and teacher partnerships;
- specific strategies on how to advocate to support your child's participation and ongoing learning needs;
- information about your local school system's processes to support learning at all stages of the educational pathway; and
- opportunities for you to network with other parents/carers and local support personnel.

Workshop details

Venue: The Marquee Hotel Brisbane
103 George Street, Brisbane

When: **Two-Day Workshop – 12 & 13 April 2011**
Day 1: 9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m (Registration from 8.15am)
Day 2: Information Sessions 9 a.m – 4.00 p.m

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Registration opens 6 weeks before the workshop, and closes 1 week prior.

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Department of Education and Training, Western Australia
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Two Day Workshop and Information Sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of School Aged Students on the Autism Spectrum

Workshop: QLDPC28 **Location:** IPSWICH

The two day workshop and information sessions for parents/ carers of school aged students on the autism spectrum are part of the Positive Partnerships: supporting school aged students on the autism spectrum initiatives. These initiatives are funded by the Department of Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through the Australian Government's Helping Children with Autism package, and also includes a national professional development program for teachers and other school staff. The Positive Partnerships initiatives are being developed and delivered by the Australian Autism Education & Training Consortium (AAETC).

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- an understanding about the processes and strategies for effective parent, school and teacher partnerships;
- specific strategies on how to advocate to support your child's participation and ongoing learning needs;
- information about your local school system's processes to support learning at all stages of the educational pathway; and
- opportunities for you to network with other parents/carers and local support personnel.

Workshop details

Venue: Metro Hotel Ipswich International
43 South Street, Ipswich

When: **Two-Day Workshop – 7 & 8 June 2011**
Day 1: 9.00 a.m - 4.30 p.m (Registration from 8.15am)
Day 2: Information Sessions 9 a.m – 4.00 p.m

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Registration opens 6 weeks before the workshop, and closes 1 week prior.

Registration may stay open up to one day before the workshop if spaces are still available, but we strongly recommend that you register as soon as possible.

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**Have a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from the ECIA
(Old Chapter) Team!**

