

# Leadership in education and care – A masterclass

A leadership conference for all in the education and care sector

Wednesday, July 24

8.30 am – 3.15 pm

The Treacy Centre,  
126 The Avenue, Parkville

**BOOK YOUR  
TICKETS**



*Hurry, 900+ early learning leaders registered for our last conference*



Community  
Child Care

Vision into Practice



## Why attend?

- ✓ **Develop your self-confidence as a leader**
- ✓ **Hear what you can do to handle heightened periods of stress**
- ✓ **Learn how to resolve conflict and hold educators accountable in a positive and non-confrontational way**
- ✓ **Discover how to delegate effectively and motivate and empower a team**

**PLUS much more!**

**If you work in education and care, this conference is for you.** Whether you're an educational leader, room leader or even in a project-based leadership role, such as a reconciliation coordinator or wellbeing coordinator – you'll leave this event with the skills every leader needs to support, influence and inspire a team.





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Community Child Care Association (CCC) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this nation and the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work. We recognise their continuing connection to culture, land, water and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the strength of family connection and kinship within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their ongoing dedication to educating and caring for children. Sovereignty of these lands was never ceded.

This artwork is by Yorta Yorta and Gunnai artist Dixon Patten. It depicts the cultural learning journey Community Child Care Association is on. Get the full story in our Reconciliation Action Plan: [bit.ly/InnovateRAP](https://bit.ly/InnovateRAP)





Does your to-do list  
keep you up at night?

Are you hesitant to give  
feedback for fear of it being  
taken the wrong way?

Do you struggle to get  
everyone on the same  
page with programming?

Or, do you avoid  
delegating and end up  
doing everything yourself?

**You're not alone.**





**Leaders often tell us they've been thrown into the deep end.**

There are no formal qualifications, there's never enough planning time, the required documentation can feel downright overwhelming, and staff retention and wellbeing are a constant battle.

Despite all the challenges, you work in education and care for a reason: an unwavering passion for the vocation. Trust us when we say that change is possible. We'll show you how.

This masterclass isn't going to pretend that working in a children's service is always sunshine and daisies. We know that's not your reality.

Instead, this conference will empower you with the tools you need to:

- ✓ Delegate effectively and share the load
- ✓ Resolve conflict and hold educators accountable in a positive and non-confrontational way
- ✓ Motivate and inspire a team
- ✓ Handle heightened periods of stress
- ✓ Develop your self-confidence as a leader

# Conference **program**



**8.30 am**     **Registrations open and arrival tea/coffee**

**9.15 am**     **Welcome to Country**

*Elder from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, the Traditional Owners of Greater Melbourne*

**Introduction and welcome**

**Julie Price**

*Executive Director – Community Child Care Association*

**9.30 am**     **FIRESIDE CHAT**

**Creating spaces for learning and leadership**

**Bryony Catlin, Narelle Lawton and Caitlin Mason**

*Consultants – Community Child Care Association*

There's no questioning it. The years behind us have been hard work. Educators, teachers and leaders are stretched thin and stressed out. While our team is certain the tide is starting to turn – they're not going to pretend that working in a children's service is always sunshine and daisies. They know that's not your reality and it's not what you want to hear. Instead, they're here to offer the tips, tools and techniques you need to lead effectively, foster teamwork and cultivate a positive and thriving culture.

**10.30 am**     **Morning tea**

# Conference **program**

Continued



11.00 am

## **KEYNOTE**

### **The stance and dance of leadership**

**Catharine Hydon**

*Early Childhood Leader + Director – Hydon Consulting*

In this keynote, Catharine Hydon – one of Australia’s leading voices in education and care – will unpack what makes a great leader and how you can become one. She’ll get practical with a discussion about time management, stress and burnout. Later, she’ll share ways you can build your confidence as a leader, and explore what it takes to build a meaningful legacy.

Here’s what our previous conference attendees had to say about Catharine...

“Catharine Hydon is always inspirational”

“I took the most away from Catharine Hydon and how I can support others in my position as Educational Leader.”

“[Catharine’s keynote will be] a launching point for some service-wide reflection”

“Always enjoy listening to and learning from Catharine Hydon”

12.00 pm

## **CAMPFIRE SESSION**

### **Creating opportunities for wellbeing to flourish**

**Rod Soper**

*Veteran Educator + Chief Wellbeing Officer – Personhood 360*

In a mentally healthy children’s service, everyone’s wellbeing matters. But what can you do to promote a happy workplace where children and educators flourish? In this uplifting session, veteran educator Rod Soper will unpack the science behind wellbeing-focused leadership and reveal the simple things you can do to maximise your impact.

12.30 pm **Lunch**



# Conference **program**

## Continued



### 1.30 pm **Australian Government support and initiatives for the ECEC workforce**

**Sarah Swain**

*Australian Government Department of Education*

Get an update on the progress of the National Children's Education and Care Workforce Strategy, which aims to address the workforce crisis. Learn about Australian Government initiatives that will help education and care services.

### 1.45 pm **PANEL WITH **EXCEEDING** EARLY LEARNING SERVICES** **How to create cohesive and effective teams**

**Alex Cox**

*Educational Leader – Malvern Early Learning*

**Brooke Eastwood**

*Educational Leader – Hawthorn Early Years*

**Kylie Seadon**

*Consultant – Community Child Care Association & Former Director – Perry Street Childcare Centre*

Hearing from real leaders was one of the things participants loved most about our last conference. In this unmissable session, educational leaders from two Exceeding-rated services and a former director will spill the tea on leading their teams – from the art of giving feedback to how to move past a culture of blame, excuses and denial.

### 2.30 pm **KEYNOTE**

#### **Awakening teams' potential**

**Kirsty Liljegren**

*Early Childhood Teacher, Researcher + Consultant*

When your team is focused on learning, growing and getting better together, wonderful things can happen. But how can you build a professional learning culture? And what can you do as a leader to maximise your team's potential? To inspire you to look to the future with positivity, we're chuffed to have the sublime Kirsty Liljegren deliver this powerful closing keynote address.

### 3.30 pm **TOP TAKEAWAYS & WRAP-UP**

**Daniela Kavoukas**

*Services Manager, Community Child Care Association*

Join us for this conference wrap-up session as we offer our top take-home recommendations for education and care leaders.



# Keynote speakers



## **Catharine Hydon (she/her)**

*Early Childhood Leader + Director – Hydon Consulting*

Is there a more respected voice in education and care than Catharine Hydon? With over three decades of experience, plus a master's degree in early childhood education, Catharine supports leaders and educators across Australia to explore the relationship between theory and practice.



## **Kirsty Liljegren (she/her)**

*Internationally Renowned Presenter, Researcher and Early Childhood Teacher*

Having worked in early education for 30+ years – as a teacher, director, mentor and coach – Kirsty's drive in her work is to see children flourish. Kirsty believes that children gift us so much if we listen, and has done extensive research in the philosophies of Reggio Emilia and nature pedagogy.

## Speakers bios



## **Bryony Catlin (she/her)**

*Consultant – Community Child Care Association*

Bryony has an array of early childhood teaching experience and qualifications, including a Graduate Certificate of Developmental Trauma and a Graduate Diploma of Therapeutic Play. This background helps her guide educators and leaders to understand and include children who have had adverse early childhood experiences. She is passionate about relational pedagogy and social justice for children and families experiencing disadvantage. Bryony's work advocates for places where children have a voice and their sense of choice and agency is promoted.



## **Caitlin Mason (she/her)**

*Consultant – Community Child Care Association*

Caitlin uses her background in early education and studies in psychology to understand different personalities, help leaders build strong teams and meet the needs of all educators. As a former Inclusion Professional, she supported hundreds of services across Victoria, which gave her a wealth of experience in guiding children's behaviour.

## Speakers bios Continued



### **Daniela Kavoukas**

*Services Manager – Community Child Care Association*

Daniela is a tenacious leader. Early on in her first director job, Daniela discovered her service was on the brink of closure. Through determination and strong leadership, she steered her community-owned co-op from struggle to success. Daniela's acumen as a talented educator was recognised when she was awarded the Inspirational Educator Award in 2013 and the National Teaching Award in 2014. She is also a former board member of the Children's Services Coordinators Association. Daniela is passionate about providing a voice for service directors and educators on the issues that matter to them.



### **Julie Price**

*Executive Director – Community Child Care Association*

Julie joined Community Child Care Association as project manager for the Victorian Inclusion Agency. In just six weeks Julie led the establishment of nine regional offices, the recruitment of 50 staff state-wide, and the operationalisation of the strategic plan. Now, as our Executive Director, and a skilled leader and manager, she draws on her studies in organisational psychology to lead CCC into its next phase of development. Her vision is to build on the strong history of CCC as a leader and advocate for not-for-profit and community-owned education and care services.



### **Kylie Seadon**

*Consultant – Community Child Care Association & Former Director – Perry Street Childcare Centre*

Little did Kylie know that enrolling in the wrong uni degree would be the start of a 30+ year career in early childhood education. Before arriving at CCC, she spent fourteen years as a children's service director – including at Perry Street Childcare Centre where she maintained an Exceeding rating. A registered mentor for early childhood educators, Kylie is passionate about supporting early childhood educators, teachers and leaders to overcome challenges so they can thrive in their jobs.



### **Narelle Lawton**

*Consultant – Community Child Care Association*

Narelle believes early education starts with a professional, dedicated and highly skilled workforce. As a former director of a much-loved Brunswick co-op, she understands the challenges of keeping the doors of a not-for-profit, community-owned service open. Narelle supports services to prioritise quality and put children at the core of their practice. She loves being in nature, and guides educators to appreciate the beauty and scope of what the natural environment has to offer children.



## Speakers bios Continued



### **Sarah Swain**

*Australian Government Department of Education*

Sarah has extensive experience in the early childhood area, including policy, legislation and compliance. She currently works in the Department of Education's ECEC/Schools Workforce Taskforce, where she collaborates with stakeholders, state and territory government and ACECQA on workforce matters.



### **Rod Soper (he/him)**

*Veteran Educator + Chief Wellbeing Officer – Personhood 360*

Rod has 30+ years' experience in the fields of education and leadership design. He has worked in a range of senior roles, including Head of Primary Years, Assistant Principal (P–12), Director of Early Years Learning in the preschool space, senior researcher and leadership designer. He is the co-founder of Personhood360, an online platform designed to help teachers program, track and measure the development of wellbeing in children.



### **Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation**

Back in the 80s, a small group of Wurundjeri Elders, the Traditional Custodians of Greater Melbourne, developed a shared vision for themselves and future generations. By 1985, their vision had crystallised and a representative body – the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation – was born. Today, it provides a range of services – from consultation to natural resources management.





Here's the price  
break-down:

Members \$299

Non-members \$399

**BOOK YOUR  
TICKET NOW**

By the way, if you're a  
member, you'll get access  
to all the recordings!



## Here's what our previous conference attendees had to say...

*"[I'm] feeling confident to have those tricky conversations about reflective practice" – Lisa Waters, Maroondah Occasional Care*

*"Some delicious new words and concepts to introduce to my colleagues, along with plenty of further reading to do!" – Anonymous*

*"This is my first time attending the CCC event. I enjoyed listening to different speakers which gave me ideas about how to be an educational leader" – Paula Mangawai, Gray Early Learning Centre*

*"Very practical and easy to understand" – Anonymous*

*"So much information that I can take back to my service and team" – Anonymous*



## About us

For fifty years, Community Child Care Association has been a strong voice for community-owned services and quality education and care for all children. We helped set up the very first community-owned services in Australia. Today, we continue to support and champion both community-owned services and the wider sector. We're active across the state, providing leadership and advocacy, working with governments, and supporting services with membership, quality professional development and consultancies.

Become a member or find out more at [www.cccinc.org.au](http://www.cccinc.org.au)

