

The *Leadership* Conference 2025



Leading with purpose in early years and OSHC

Through both expert-led and peer-driven learning,
you'll gain strategies and tools to better support
and inspire your team!

Wednesday 23 July 2025


9.30am–4.30pm

*registrations open 8.45am

Treacy Centre, 126 The Avenue, Parkville VIC

REGISTER NOW!





Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Community Child Care Association acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of this nation and the Traditional Owners 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. The sovereignty of these lands was never ceded. We support Treaty.





Conference *program*

**8.45am–
9.30am** **Arrival tea and coffee; registrations open**

9.30am **Conference start and Welcome to Country**

We will officially begin with an Elder from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Together, we'll take a moment to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet.

Introduction and welcome

CEO – Community Child Care Association

9.45am **KEYNOTE: Searching for wins**

Bec Goddard OAM

Inaugural AFLW Premiership coach of the Adelaide Crows

Building a winning team environment is crucial to success, and great leadership is about more than strategy – it's about fostering environments where people can thrive and succeed together.

Drawing from her groundbreaking career in elite sport and law enforcement, Bec will share lessons on resilience, collaboration and creating cultures of high performance. Hear from Bec about the behind-the-scenes moments from her journey as she offers practical inspiration for building winning teams in any setting.

Got burning questions for Bec? You'll have an opportunity to ask her in a Q&A at the end of the session.

10.45am **Morning tea**





Conference *program* continued

11.00am **FIRESIDE CHAT: Inspiring change for excellence in practice**

Anthony Morris, Kylie Seadon and Aisha Grewal

Professional Support Consultants – Community Child Care Association

Learn how to lead with clarity and purpose, engage your team meaningfully, and create a culture where collaboration thrives. In this practical and conversational session, Anthony, Kylie and Aisha will explore the barriers to implementing change and the enablers that will inspire team members to contribute effectively.

You will leave with actionable tools to articulate the 'how' and 'why' of change, support staff wellbeing, and strengthen your leadership identity to foster lasting improvements in practice and unlock the full potential of your team.

12.00pm **Stretch/activity break**

12.10pm **CAMPFIRE SESSION: The elephant in the room: employee wellbeing and retention**

Dr Patrick Aouad

Founder and CEO – CU Health

Protecting the health and wellbeing of your team is a crucial consideration for leaders. This case-based session explores common challenges and how they can directly impact daily performance and risk within the workplace.

Gain insight into the latest data on mental health in the sector, explore low-cost, high-impact wellbeing strategies, and learn how to engage with CU Health to support your team and take pressure off leaders.

12.30pm **Lunch**



Conference *program* continued



1.15pm **PANEL SESSION: Passing down knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next**

Sharon Goodwin

Education and Care Industrial Relations Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Shelli Giosis

Nominated Supervisor/Educational Leader and Teacher – Delta Road Preschool

Mariella Raval

Educational Leader/Room Leader – Perry Street Child Care Centre and Elizabeth Gorman Memorial Kindergarten

Back by popular demand and continuing the conversation from CCC's 2024 AGM panel, this discussion focuses on the crucial role educators have in supporting the next generation of educators. The multigenerational panel will discuss learning from experience, skill development, critical thinking, emotional wisdom, and adaptation of knowledge.

The phrase “teach young what we learn old” emphasises the importance of passing down knowledge and wisdom from one generation to the next, with this session designed to foster and enrich the lives of new educators to create a more informed and cohesive sector.

2.00pm **KEYNOTE: Understanding AI in the education sector**

Dr Kobi Leins

Executive Director – Info Sphere Education

The world faces unprecedented changes in technological advances. In the education sector, these rapid changes are reshaping how we teach, learn and lead. How should these technologies be used, and specifically, with children? What opportunities and risks do they pose? What even is AI, and how is it different to other technologies?

This presentation is an informative, informal conversation for you to better understand what AI is and what it isn't, and learn what opportunities and risks it provides in the specific context of education and care.

3.00pm **Afternoon tea**

3.15pm **PLENARY: Meaningful engagement with families and communities – a culturally responsive approach**

Rhonda Livingstone

National Education Leader and General Manager – ACECQA's Leadership, Quality and Regulatory Support Group

When meaningful connections are made with families and communities, the impact on children's learning is significant. This session will support leaders to identify contextual quality practices when developing relationships with families and the community.

Rhonda will explore the importance of quality leadership practices to influence a culture of genuine, authentic and responsive connection with families and the community. Drawing on theory and practice, including culturally responsive approaches, participants will consider strategies to build and maintain connections with families and the community, including partnerships with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

4.15pm– 4.30pm **Reflections, prize winners announced and close**

Keynote speakers



Bec Goddard OAM (she/her)

Inaugural AFLW Premiership coach of the Adelaide Crows

Bec Goddard OAM is a passionate advocate for diversity and equality in Australian sport, known for her coaching success in both the AFLW and WNBL. As the inaugural AFLW Premiership coach of the Adelaide Crows, Bec led a team spread across South Australia and the Northern Territory, while also working full-time for the Australian Federal Police (AFP). With more than 20 years of service, Bec has been deployed globally to respond to crises, including the 2004 tsunami and 2019 Christchurch shootings. A 'professional optimist', Bec shares her story of resilience, leadership and building winning teams.



Dr Kobi Leins (she/her)

Executive Director – Info Sphere Education

Kobi is an author, an expert for Standards Australia on the International Standards Organisation's AI Standards, and Affiliate of ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision-Making and Society. She is also a former Honorary Senior Fellow of King's College in London, former Advisory Board Member of the Carnegie AI and Equality Initiative, former Non-Resident Fellow of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, and Advisory Board Certified Chair. Kobi was named one of 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics (2024) and World AI Summit Top 75 AI Innovators (2023).

Speaker bios



Aisha Grewal (she/her)

Professional Support Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Aisha has worked as a leader, educator, lead educator and 2IC. She has extensive experience in policy development, auditing, compliance, and preparing services for service approval and end-to-end support with assessment and rating. Through her work, Aisha has led services to achieve both Exceeding and Excellent ratings under the National Quality Standard.



Anthony Morris (he/him)

Professional Support Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Anthony has close to 20 years' experience in the sector as an educator and educational leader, and most recently was a director of a not-for-profit, community-run service. A strong advocate for children's play and a connection with the natural world, Anthony has led and supported nature play projects for over a decade.

Speaker bios *continued*



Kylie Seadon (she/her)

Professional Support Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Kylie is an experienced education and care consultant who has worked in the education and care sector for over 30 years. Previously the director of a not-for-profit, community-run children's centre for 14 years, Kylie specialises in governance, leadership and critical reflection.



Mariella Raval (she/her)

Educational Leader/Room Leader – Perry Street Child Care Centre and Elizabeth Gorman Memorial Kindergarten

Mariella began her role as a support educator in early 2022, and the following year she became a room leader and began studying a Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education. Mariella has had the privilege of working with many experienced educators and teachers, and her hope is to continue in their footsteps to further progress the quality and reputation of the early childhood sector.



Dr Patrick Aouad (he/him)

Founder and CEO – CU Health

Patrick is an internationally published consultant neurologist and the founder and CEO of CU Health, Australia's leading health and wellbeing platform for employees. CU Health was developed to support the increasing demand on employees, and to protect organisations from the negative impact poor employee mental and physical health can have on culture, performance and engagement. Patrick is passionate about improving health outcomes for people through human-centred technology, and is a leading voice on workplace wellbeing and its economic impacts.



Rhonda Livingstone (she/her)

National Education Leader and General Manager – ACECQA's Leadership, Quality and Regulatory Support Group

Rhonda brings a wealth of experience to her role as National Education Leader and General Manager at ACECQA, having worked in preschools, long day care centres and as an assessor, developer and deliverer of programs and services for both government and non-government organisations. Rhonda had the privilege of being involved in the development of the National Quality Standard (NQS) and the approved learning frameworks, ensuring quality education and care provides children and young people with the best start in life.



Sharon Goodwin (she/her)

Education and Care Industrial Relations Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Sharon was the coordinator of a large, inner suburban community-owned OSHC service for over 15 years, which in 2023 increased to span two campuses. In addition to her work in the OSHC sector, she is a tutor at Melbourne University and recently joined CCC as a consultant to support OSHC services navigate the worker retention payment.




Shelli Giosis (she/her)

Nominated Supervisor/ Educational Leader and Teacher – Delta Road Preschool

Shelli has been learning and working in the early years sector for over 30 years. Currently teaching sessional kindergarten (where she has been for a decade), Shelli is also an educational leader and nominated supervisor. In addition to these roles, Shelli is a teaching coach and a sessional academic at Deakin University.



Hear from ***our previous*** attendees



'It was a wonderful opportunity to be part of a room of individuals who are already doing an amazing job, wanting to learn more.'

Maria, Centre Director,
Swanston Street Children's Centre

'The speakers were really engaging, and the room really highlighted the importance of connectedness and community.'

(Anon)




'I have so many ideas to take back to the staff at the service.'

(Anon) Coordinator, OSHC

'The guest speakers were fantastic and shared their amazing insights that motivated me.'

Mahour, Educational Leader,
City Kids ELC





Be empowered to be the *leader* you want to be

This one-day conference will enable you to:

- Bolster your confidence as a successful leader
- Learn about the potential and challenges of AI use when working with children
- Develop a culturally responsive approach to engage with families
- Harness the passing down of knowledge and wisdom between generations
- Discover strategies to improve employee wellbeing and retention
- Meet other leaders in education and care.

Join us!

For discounted tickets, become a CCC member!

JOIN NOW!

One-day in-person conference

Wednesday 23 July 2025

9.30am–4.30pm

Early bird ticket (before 6 June 2025)

\$309 – CCC member ticket

\$409 – Non-member ticket

Standard ticket (from 7 June 2025)

\$349 – CCC member ticket

\$449 – Non-member ticket

Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided.

BOOK NOW!

Please note: The program could be subject to change.





About us

Since 1971, Community Child Care Association (CCC) has been a leading voice for community-based early childhood education and outside school hours care (OSHC) services. 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 Victoria and interstate, providing leadership and advocacy, working with governments, and supporting services with membership, quality professional development and consultancies.

We support long day care, outside school hours care (OSHC), three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten, family day care and occasional care educators, teachers, leaders, coordinators and directors.

Community Child Care Association is the national peak body for community-owned early childhood services, the Victorian peak body for outside school hours care, and the Victorian state branch of the National Outside School Hours Services Alliance (NOSHSA). Our heritage as a sector leader means we're the go-to organisation for projects, like the Victorian Inclusion Agency.

