

ELEVATE

EARLY EDUCATION ONLINE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH 2023

Belonging and Inclusion

Elevate brings together a group of recognised sector experts to inspire educators and teachers. Our curated program will enhance your team's knowledge on the importance of inclusiveness, respect and creating a sense of belonging in early education and care settings.

Wednesday, 1 March 2023 - 9AM TO 2:50PM (AEST)

9.10 - 9.40AM	<p>RELATIONAL FRAMEWORKS: WHAT ABORIGINAL LIVED AND LIVING EXPERIENCES CAN TEACH US ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONNECTIONS. FACILITATORS: LOU TURNER AND NANCY JEFFREY - EMERGING MINDS</p> <p>Explore and unpack the importance of creating relational settings within social environments and how this translates within early learning spaces for children, their families, and care structures. Lou and Nancy will share examples of personal and professional lived and living experience and present a case study narrative for practitioners, service managers and policy makers.</p>
9.45 - 10.25AM	<p>GENDER EXPANSIVENESS FACILITATOR: DR RACHEL CHAPMAN - MELBOURNE POLYTECHNIC</p> <p>What does going beyond 'gender-neutral' look like in practice? This session is an opportunity to unpack some of the many questions and answers surrounding the role of early childhood educators in supporting children's gender identities.</p>
10.30 - 10.40AM	Break
10.40 - 11.40AM	<p>BEYOND THE RAINBOW: CONNECTING, SUPPORTING, EMPOWERING DIVERSE FAMILIES FACILITATORS: MARLY GREENWOOD AND SCOTT BRUNELLE - RAINBOW FAMILIES</p> <p>All families are different. Some are single parent, some have stepparents, some are foster families, and some have LGBTQ+ parents This one-hour session will support educators to proactively design environments that are welcoming for all families and share how you can plan for education on family diversity.</p>
11.45 - 12.45PM	<p>CULTURALLY EMBEDDED FACILITATOR: MENI TSAMBOUNIARIS - DIVERSITY KIDS</p> <p>Do you work with children and families from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds? Meni will help you plan and deliver a culturally inclusive program where all your children feel included, welcome and have a sense of belonging.</p>
12.45 - 1.25PM	Break
1.30 - 2.00PM	<p>UNDERSTANDING CHILD MENTAL HEALTH FACILITATOR: HELEN FRANCIS - EMERGING MINDS</p> <p>Would you like to better understand how to support the social and emotional well-being of the children in your service? This practical session provides strategies and resources for supporting children's mental health in your service, acknowledging the importance of mental well-being for all children.</p>
2.05 - 2.35PM	<p>PLAY THERAPY FACILITATOR: ANNA CHARLESTON - BILL CREWES FOUNDATION</p> <p>Gain a deeper understanding of Play Therapy and its role in helping children heal from trauma. Anna will provide insight into trauma informed practices and strategies you can implement to help children heal from trauma.</p>
2.40 - 2.50PM	Conference Wrap Up

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MEET THE FACILITATORS

SCOTT BRUNELLE

Rainbow Families

Scott Brunelle (he/him) is a founding Board CoChair of Rainbow Families, a charity focused on reducing the discrimination and disadvantage faced by children with LGBTQ+ parents. Scott's interest in family diversity education began in 2011 as the coordinator of Gay Dads NSW. Formerly a private sector marketing and business development leader for 20 years, both in the USA and Australia, Scott transitioned into the early childhood educator sector in 2021. In addition to being a qualified educator, Scott has a Graduate Certificate in Marketing and a Master of Commerce (Marketing) from the University of Sydney.



DR RACHEL CHAPMAN

Melbourne Polytechnic

Dr Rachel Chapman is an academic in early childhood education at Melbourne Polytechnic. Her research areas include gender, sexuality, early childhood, diversity, inclusion, policy and teacher practice. She has over 18 years of experience teaching, lecturing and researching in the early childhood sector.



ANNA CHARLESTON

Bill Crewes Foundation

Anna is a registered Play Therapist helping children impacted by trauma. She works full-time for Bill Crewes Foundation, which address the cause and effect of homelessness and poverty. The Foundation has specialised Play Therapy rooms in Ashfield and at the Summer Hill Children's Centre in Sydney. Previously, Anna was a Clinical Manager of a play therapy charity in Sydney. She practiced Play Therapy for many years in large, culturally diverse, nursery, primary and high schools in socially deprived parts of London.



HELEN FRANCIS

Emerging Minds

Helen is responsible for leading the national to local strategy for the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health. She has a vast knowledge of Health and Community Services with a combination of over 30 years management experience, identifying service gaps and developing community partnerships advocating for 'joined up solutions to local issues'. Helen has extensive experience in child and family mental health, training and development, action research, community consultation, community development and capacity building initiatives, and 'lived experience' engagement in the process of co-design.



MARLY GREENWOOD

Rainbow Families

Marly (she/her) is an early childhood professional who has worked for almost 40 years in the sector in an array of roles. Marly is a volunteer with and proud member of Rainbow Families NSW. For many years Marly has been an advocate for LGBTIQ+ families. She has witnessed a great deal of change for LGBTIQ+ families in early education and believes there are still positive changes ahead. Marly continues to learn about the wonderful diversity within LGBTIQ+ headed families and the ways in which we can help reduce disadvantage and discrimination for these families.



NANCY JEFFREY

Emerging Minds

Nancy was born in Darwin on Larrakia Country and is a proud Woolwonga descendant. Nancy works at Emerging Minds Australia as an Advisor in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing Portfolio, Partnerships and Implementation team.

Nancy believes in the power of education. She is passionate about change for her people and keen to see the next generation of Indigenous children succeed and become leaders within all our communities. Nancy finds that, in working together with others, we have the capacity to make a real difference.



FIND OUT MORE: www.cela.org.au/elevate-conference

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MENI TSAMBOUNIARIS

Diversity Kids

Meni has worked in the early childhood education sector for 35 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology (UNSW) and has worked in various multicultural children's services positions under the Commonwealth Inclusion Support strategy, including co-ordinating Sups Programs and managing the NSW Bicultural Support Program. She is an early childhood author, resource developer and trainer on cultural inclusion. In addition, Meni is a CALD representative, adviser and consultant on various platforms.

Meni currently co-manages a multicultural consultancy program called Diversity Kids and has a strong passion for cultural inclusive practice, bilingualism, and embedding cultural perspectives in education and care settings. Her goal is to provide support and resources to the sector, to ensure that early childhood education services are multicultural places where children's cultures and languages are recognised, valued and reflected and spaces where all children are, and feel included.



LOU TURNER

Emerging Minds

Lou is a proud Anangu Father with Pitjantjatjara connections to Docker River and Mutitjulu Communities, with Stolen Generations history in his family. As a Pitjantjatjara man, also with Indonesian and Scottish heritage, Lou is guided by experiences of growing up between cultures, families and environments. Exposure to this diversity has informed Lou's identity and forms the foundation to how he lives and engages with the communities he has had the honour and privilege of living and working amongst.

Lou is committed to a journey of 'walking in two worlds' (navigating and engaging between First Nations and mainstream communities) seeking solutions with others to promote and realise intergenerational healing opportunities for now and future generations.

Lou is driven by cultural obligations to be actively engaged in a collective healing process that reconciles past history and builds relationships between people based upon values of reciprocity, respect and unity, and honouring the voices of people with lived experience. Lou endeavours to show kindness and compassion to where individuals are at on their own journeys of understanding.



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