

Children Communities Connection Conference 2012
Building Stronger Communities with Children and Families



Stream 7: How neuroscience is changing approaches to working with children and families.

Session: Early childhood development: an emerging profession. Report from the National Symposium held in Adelaide in September 2012

Abstract: Integrated approaches to the delivery of supports to children and families are increasingly being recognised around the world, as many governments move to align their services for children and families, and in recognition of neuroscience evidence highlighting the importance of the early years. Various initiatives are already being undertaken to increase integrated early childhood development (ECD) service provision, and building on this there is a unique opportunity to co-create a new integrated ECD profession in Australia. This presentation will give a summary of the inaugural National Symposium held in Adelaide on 24 and 25 September 2012, discussing these themes.

Presenter: Miriam Doull is Project Manager in the SA Department for Education and Child Development. She has two young children, and is passionate about early childhood development. Miriam studied psychology, women's studies, social research, and management. She has worked in the public sector for 17+ years, in policy, management and data analysis.

<http://www.salisbury4c.org.au/conferences.php#2012>

“Early childhood development: an emerging profession”

Report from the National Symposium, held in Adelaide on 24-25 September 2012

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National symposium – Policy context

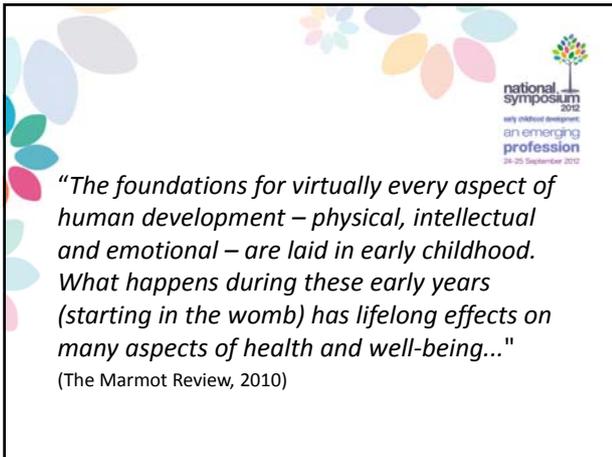
- National Early Childhood Development Strategy
http://www.deewr.gov.au/earlychildhood/policy_agenda/pages/earlychildhooddevelopmentstrategy.aspx
- National Early Years Workforce Strategy
http://www.deewr.gov.au/Earlychildhood/Policy_Agenda/EarlyChildhoodWorkforce/Pages/NationalEarlyYearsWorkforceStrategy.aspx
- South Australian Strategic Priority - Every Chance for Every Child
<http://www.everychild.sa.gov.au/>

Evidence for an ECD approach

- Neuroscience
- Economics
- Research
- International experience

“Children who have good early childhood experiences before age 6, in stimulating, nurturing environments have better outcomes throughout their life... better school grades, better self esteem, fewer social problems, and fewer health problems and are less likely to be teen parents, use drugs or be involved in crime”
(Hertzman, 2003)

“Today the exponential growth in knowledge in the neurosciences and biological sciences has shown us how brain development in the early years can set trajectories that affect health (physical and mental), learning and behaviour for life”.
(Mustard 2007)



"The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are laid in early childhood. What happens during these early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being..."

(The Marmot Review, 2010)

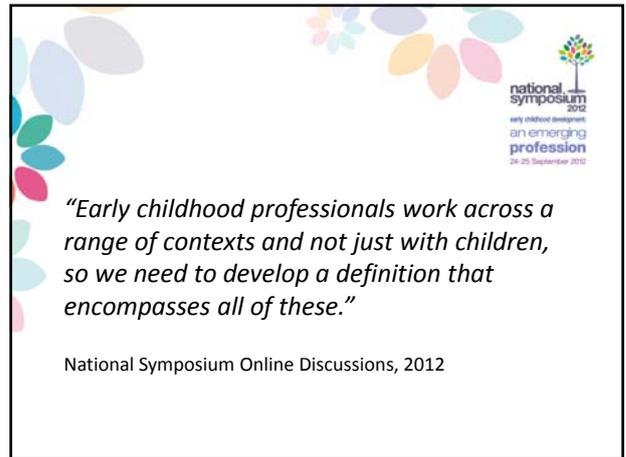


National symposium –
online discussions
25 June – 17 August 2012



"Early childhood development is an approach that brings together a range of disciplines to work collaboratively to holistically support children and families..."

National Symposium Online Discussions, 2012



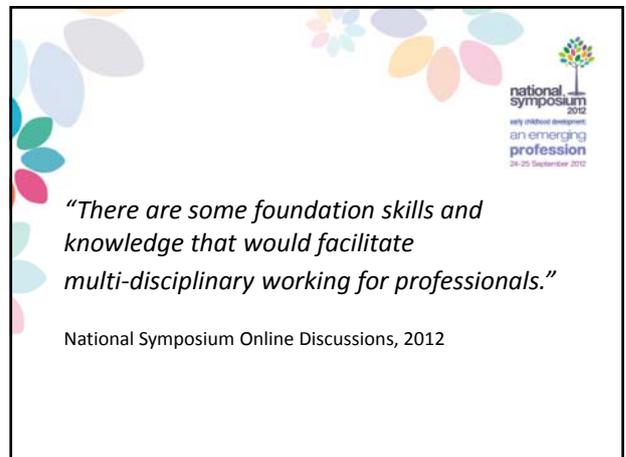
"Early childhood professionals work across a range of contexts and not just with children, so we need to develop a definition that encompasses all of these."

National Symposium Online Discussions, 2012



"How can we ensure that different professions have their different roles and expertise that they can offer, but that they are also integrated and core components within the centre?"

National Symposium Online Discussions, 2012



"There are some foundation skills and knowledge that would facilitate multi-disciplinary working for professionals."

National Symposium Online Discussions, 2012



national symposium 2012
early childhood development: an emerging profession
24-25 September 2012

“We educate people within a discipline and, in doing so, create boundaries and barriers. So one of the keys to working more successfully together might be to look at our pre-service courses and work out what we have in common and where we need to differ.”

National Symposium Online Discussions, 2012



national symposium 2012
early childhood development: an emerging profession
24-25 September 2012

VIDEO DAY 1
<http://youtu.be/za2YGat6jGU>
(3min19sec)



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National symposium

More than 200 participants from all states/territories
People from various disciplines
National and international speakers

- Dr Charles E Pascal (Canada)
- Isabelle Trowler & Steve Goodman (UK)
- Dr Rosemary Roberts (UK)
- Dr Margy Whalley (UK)

Key themes/issues that arose over the 2 days
Presentations available online <http://www.ecdprofession.sa.gov.au>



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What next?

Partnership
Conversation Child development
Qualifications Common Identity
Enable Team Culture Understanding
Language Knowledge Trust
Relationships Professionals
Parents Meanings Disciplines
Professions Child Respect Multi-agency
Wrap-around Communication Dialogue

Early Childhood Development: An Emerging Profession
Online Discussion Forum: 23 June - 17 August 2012



national symposium 2012
early childhood development: an emerging profession
24-25 September 2012

VIDEO DAY 2
<http://youtu.be/4X0-oPgkfyC>
(3min20sec)