Welcome to the inaugural Institute of Early Childhood research and community outreach publication. Presentations, publications and community activities by our academics highlight the Institute’s commitment to maximising opportunities for young children, families and communities through research, teaching, learning and advocacy.

In 2010 the Institute of Early Childhood hosted a large number of international visitors. They included government policy makers, early childhood academics and experts from countries such as New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Bangladesh, The Philippines, Japan, The United States of America, Fiji, Singapore, Vietnam and Norway.

The Institute also welcomed Federal Minister The Honourable Kate Ellis and the then State Member of Bennelong The Honourable Maxine McKew.

The first Children and Childhoods Symposium was held by the Institute in 2010.

Our awards and scholarships presentation acknowledged the commitment, achievement and talent of our students. The Institute honoured alumni Leanne Gibbs, CEO of Community Child Care Cooperative for her accomplishments and dedication to early childhood education.

2010 saw the launch of the publication *Deadlier with a Degree* authored by Institute of Early Childhood Aboriginal and Torres Strait graduates. In the book these graduates share their stories of hope and survival in pursuing their dreams of a university degree.

The Institute of Early Childhood values integrity, collegiality, respect, intellectual rigour and social justice. This is evidenced by our many publications, presentations, successful grants, consultancies and community partnerships.

Dr Marina Papic
Head, Institute of Early Childhood
IEC sponsored conferences

- Dr Kathy Cologon and Professor Jacqueline Hayden hosted a workshop from 23 – 25 August 2010 which was attended by sixteen representatives from four nations. These delegates, from Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea Bangladesh and The Philippines, were early childhood specialists, government policy makers and from non-government organisations such as UNICEF.
- Dr Fleur Harris organised a visit from Professor Angus MacFarlane of the University of Canterbury. He met with a cross-faculty team to discuss future collaborations between the two institutions.
- Professor Jacqueline Hayden and Dr Maria Amigo coordinated a week-long meeting for 12 International ECD specialists in partnership with Queens University, Belfast. Participants who came from South America, the United States of America and Europe discussed current issues and research needs regarding young children and ethnic diversity.

Visitors to IEC

- The Honourable Kate Ellis MP and former Labor MP Maxine McKew
- Professor Alan Pence, UNESCO chair for early childhood education
- Kokusai Gakuin Saitama, Junior College exchange visit
- Jessica Anzelone, Bank Street School for Children, New York City
- Emiliana Afeaki, Assistant Professor in Community Education at the Fiji National University
- Elizabeth Tan, Temasek Humanities and Social Sciences College
- Kari Hoås Moen and Per Tore Granrusten, Queen Maud University College of Early Childhood Education and Care, Norway
- A delegation from Vietnam’s Ministry for Education
- Members from the New South Wales Department of Education and Training

IEC Spotlight

New Frontiers in Early Childhood: The first national early childhood leadership conference and roundtable, 11–12 November 2010, Sydney

This event was sponsored by Children’s Services Central (NSW) who commissioned Associate Professor Manjula Waniganayake and Anthony Semann (PhD candidate) to coordinate the event focusing specifically on early childhood leadership. The program consisted of a round table forum with invited speakers who presented stimulus papers to engage the audience to discuss leadership matters critically. The second day was open to the community and offered a variety of strategies including a debate to evoke further discussion.
Research Projects

Maria Amigo, A double transition: Migrant children starting school. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Macquarie New Staff Grant (MQNS)

Sheila Degotardi and Emma Pearson, A study of the relationship perspectives and priorities of children, families and staff in early-childhood centres. Macquarie University Research Development Grant

Sheila Degotardi, Cathrine Neilsen-Hewett, Marina Papic, Sandra Cheeseman, Peter Whiteman, Kathy Cologon and Catherine Patterson, Student and staff perspectives and expectations of first-year students’ academic skills. MQ Competitive grants Scheme

Fleur Harris, The Australian Early Years Learning Framework: How does it inform teaching practices with Aboriginal children and include Aboriginal education philosophies? MQ New Staff Grant

Jacqueline Hayden and Maria Amigo, ECD and Social Change: A Global Review. Queens University Belfast

Jacqueline Hayden, Early childhood and emergencies: Developing the research agenda. The Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development

Kathy Cologon, and Jacqueline Hayden, Raising awareness, identifying capacity and developing plans for enhanced programs and services regarding the issue of disaster risk reduction for young children and families in the Asia Region. UNICEF/ARNEC

Jacqueline Hayden, Lisa Deters, Kathy Cologon, and Emma Pearson, Evaluating the ECD Emergency Response in Haiti. The Consultative Group on Early Childhood Care and Development and UNICEF

Jacqueline Hayden and Zinnia Mevawalla, Developing a conceptual framework for ECD in Cambodia. UNICEF


Kerry Hodge, Gifted children and early childhood education: Teacher perspectives in prior-to-school settings. Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and Macquarie New Staff Grant (MQNS)

Katey de Gioia, Enabling a theory practice nexus for international students in professional experience. Macquarie University Learning and Teaching Grant

Joanne Mulligan, Lyn English, Kerry Hodge and Marina Papic, Transforming Children’s mathematical and scientific development: a longitudinal study; ARC Discovery Grant

Marina Papic, Joanne Mulligan and Kate Highfield, Improving numeracy outcomes for young Indigenous children through the Patterns and Early Algebra Preschool (PEAP) Professional Development Program. ARC Linkages Grant

Peter Whiteman, An investigation of young children’s multimodal conceptualisations of music. MQ New Staff Grant

Jacqueline Hayden and Zinnia Mevawalla held meetings with CARE International and other NGOs during their research project in Cambodia. Jacqueline and Zinnia were investigating ECD capacity and recommending strategies for development for UNICEF Cambodia.
Consultancies

Kathy Cologon and Jacqueline Hayden were consultants to the Open Society Institute and UNICEF on ECD needs and capacities in Timor-Leste.

Frances Gibson was a consultant to the Benevolent Society, a non-government organisation, contributing to the evaluation of an early intervention program for at risk preschool aged children.

Katey De Gioia and Fay Hadley worked with NSW Police to equip their Youth Liaison Officers (YLO’s) with the skills to present the Keeping me safe program to children in primary schools. Training is conducted three times a year for all new YLO’s.

Fay Hadley worked with a stand-alone early childhood facility over a six-month period to investigate meaningful connections between the facility and families. She utilised a practitioner inquiry research approach. This was funded with a grant from the ACT Professional Support Coordinator.

Fay Hadley revised the programming, planning and documentation processes of Strathfield One Stop Child Care Service.

Fay Hadley consulted for two years with UTS Child Care Inc working in the organisation’s three early childhood settings revising their programming, planning and documentation processes, as well as reviewing their learning environments.

Jacqueline Hayden and Zinnia Mevawalla developed an ECD Conceptual Framework for Cambodia with UNICEF.

Kate Highfield worked on the evaluation and revision of the Playschool and Bananas in Pyjamas websites for ABC Kids television.

Rosalind Kitson and Peter Whiteman prepared teaching resources (for children from 8 to 12 years) in diverse areas of the primary school curriculum for the School Aid website. School Aid is a not for profit organisation.


Jennifer Nicholls worked with the NSW DET Creative Arts Directorate to create online teaching resources, learning activities and digital marking samples for NSW Secondary Drama teachers, as part of the New South Wales Digital Education Revolution.

Jennifer Nicholls was a consultant for Charles Darwin University, working with staff in Education and Humanities on the areas of student engagement and online technologies.

Emma Pearson and Belinda Davis were consultants for UNICEF. They worked with Fiji National University and the University of the South Pacific to present a progress review for the Forum Education Ministers’ Meeting on early childhood education and care in the Pacific region.
Workshops

The Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development Third Edition training workshops for Pearson Academy. (Frances Gibson)

Workshop for Farran Street Education on giftedness and the factors that contribute to the realisation of a child’s exceptional potential. (Kerry Hodge)

Workshop for Children’s Services Central and early childhood staff in the Hawkesbury Region: Living and learning together: Understanding and supporting the social world of babies and toddlers. (Sheila Degotardi)

Professional development workshop for KU Services: Young children’s musical creativity, young children’s singing development, music for infants and toddlers. (Amanda Niland)

Professional development workshops for the Indigenous Professional Support Unit NSW and ACT, Mathematics in Early Childhood: Implementing culturally appropriate experiences! Erskineville, Newcastle and Tamworth. (Marina Papic)

Other invited activities

(partnerships, professional appointments, board participation, book launches, community partnerships)

Jennifer Bowes was invited to join the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth Steering Committee on Early Childhood Research in Australia.

In March Jennifer Bowes was invited to speak to Community Services NSW, the NSW Premier and Cabinet and representatives of the Indigenous Child and Family Centre in NSW on findings from Child Care Choices of Indigenous families’ research.

Kathy Cologon was invited to join the Board of Directors of Lifestart.

Marianne Fenech was an invited participant in the DEEWR funded Worldviews, Theories and Philosophies in Children’s Services project, undertaken by Miriam Guigni. This project was designed to resource early childhood professionals to engage with the new national Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) using different theoretical perspectives.

Deadlier with a Degree was launched at Wunambiri Preschool, Alexandria, with a welcome to country in dance by Aunty Ali and an address by Aunty Norma Ingram. Indigenous co-authors and community members celebrated this contribution to Indigenous higher education. There have been requests for copies across three states. (Alma Fleet and Ros Kitson)

Jacqueline Hayden was an invited speaker at the Global Conmult Child Development Centre, Harvard University, USA. She spoke on confronting macro-level challenges to healthy child development posed by disaster, conflict, disease, and large-scale economic change.

Jacqueline Hayden was a keynote speaker at the First National ECCD Conference, Garoka, Papua New Guinea. She spoke on ECD and vulnerable children in resource poor contexts.

Jacqueline Hayden was invited by NAEYC, Washington DC to participate as an advisor to the international research project: Migrant children and ECD in Washington, USA.

Jacqueline Hayden was appointed Coordinator and Chair of UNICEF Emergency Consult in New York, identifying the issues for young children in emergency, disaster and fragile situations.

Jacqueline Hayden and Maria Amigo were invited to participate on the International Steering Committee for Children and ethnic diversity, UNA, Yogyakata, Indonesia.

Amanda Niland was invited to be an early childhood commissioner on the Early Childhood Music Education Commission of the International Society for Music Education.
Peter Whiteman and Rosalind Kitson have established a community partnership between the Institute of Early Childhood and the Museum of Contemporary Art to foster engagement in the arts for our students.

IEC Masters students spent the day at the Museum of Contemporary Art accompanied by Senior Lecturer, Ros Kitson.


Selected tender awarded to Associate Professor Manjula Waniganayake and Anthony Semann (IEC HDR candidate) to establish a professional development network called the Aspiring Leaders Forum for early childhood educators working in New South Wales. This project was funded by Children’s Services Central NSW and developed in collaboration with Semann and Slattery (December 2009 – November 2010). Based on the success with the first cohort of aspiring leaders, this project has been renewed for another year.

Shirley Wyver was invited to be a guest editor on a special issue of Play and Outdoor Learning in the European Early Childhood Education Research Journal.

The Institute of Early Childhood Annual Scholarship and Award prize winners. Left to right: Kristen Hammond, Amanda Preston, Annette Reeves, Jessica Cullen, Danielle Alam, Michael Earp, Laura Fife, Amber Hinton, Amanda Parrinelli.
Publications

Books


Book Chapters


Journal Articles


Papers published with conference proceedings


Other publications


**IEC Spotlight**

IEC and the Archdiocese of Sydney

Alma Fleet, Catherine Patterson and Katie De Giola pursued an ongoing research-based funded consultancy with the Archdiocese of Sydney. With the success of the third year of the Early Years Project, the team has been invited to continue its role across the Archdiocesan schools in 2011, pursuing educational change through practitioner enquiry. A commissioned case study of six schools within the project was developed as an Annual Report. Building on reports from previous years, findings clearly indicate the benefits of building enquiry based learning communities for children and educators, particularly when time and personnel are available to scaffold the initiatives and senior staff pursue personally driven enquiries.

**Conference Papers, Presentations and Posters**


‘Early Childhood in Multicultural Perspectives: Multicultural Approaches in Improving the Quality of Early Childhood Program.’ Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University, May, Jogjakarta, Indonesia. (Amigo, M.)


Drs Linda Graham and Marianne Fenech initiated and implemented a grass roots ECRs@MQ development program. This series of workshops aimed to build a culture of collaboration and practical, collegial support amongst early career researchers in the Human Sciences and Arts faculties, and develop the capacity of ECR participants to actively and successfully pursue a program of research.

Invited speaker to the national Social Inclusion Board meeting with Uniting Care, Burnside on research conducted by the Children and Families Research Centre, March, Macquarie University. (Bowes, J.)


‘Disaster Risk Reduction: Building Inclusive Communities.’ ARNEC/UNICEF sponsored workshop for Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Vanuatu and Bangladesh, August, Sydney. (Cologon, K.)

‘ECD and Emergency Situations – an issue for the Asia Pacific.’ ECD Regional Policy Conference, UNICEF, Sept, Port Moresby, PNG. (Cologon, K. and Hayden, J.)

‘Disaster risk reduction and early childhood development in the Asia Pacific region: The role of the community.’ Poster presentation at the South Asia Regional Conference on ECD, Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) and Asia Pacific Regional Network on Early Childhood (ARNEC), December, Dhaka, Bangladesh. (Cologon, K., and Hayden, J.)

‘Early childhood educator’s beliefs and provisions for, infant peer relationships in early childhood settings.’ Poster presented at the Children and Childhoods Symposium, Macquarie University, September, North Ryde. (Davis, B.)

‘Exploring the role of police officers in early childhood services: Creating a meaningful connection with the community.’ Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Australian Association for Research in Education, December, Melbourne. (De Gioia, K., and Hadley, F.)

‘Interpretations of infants and their link to relationship-enhancing interactions in day-care infant programs.’ Paper presented at the European Early Childhood Education Research Association Conference, September, Birmingham. (Degotardi, S.)

‘Using practitioner inquiry to promote reflexivity and change in infant-toddler early childhood programs.’ Paper presented at the Children and Childhoods Symposium, Macquarie University, September, Sydney. (Degotardi, S., Semann, A., Shepherd, W., and Honig, T.)


‘Pedagogical documentation: Does it matter if we don’t know what we’re talking about?’ Paper presented at the Biennial Conference of Early Childhood Australia September, Adelaide. (Fleet, A. and Patterson, C.)


‘Parenting and Child Outcomes after In vitro fertilisation (IVF) or Assisted reproductive Technologies (ART).’ Paper presented to Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service at Macquarie Hospital, May, North Ryde. (Gibson, F.)


‘Emergency Situations and the Plight of Young Children.’ Paper presented for the INEE Global Consultation, March, Istanbul, Turkey. (Hayden, J.)

‘We are the world – ECD on the international arena.’ Keynote paper presented at the Macquarie Inaugural Conference on Early Childhood, October, Sydney. (Hayden, J.)


‘Early childhood and social change.’ Invited paper, UNA International Steering Committee, March, Merida, Mexico. (Hayden, J.)

‘Disaster Risk Reduction: Assessing the Needs for Young Children.’ ARNEC/UNICEF Seminar, September, PNG, Philippines, Vanuatu and Bangladesh, Macquarie University. (Hayden, J.)

‘ECD and Vulnerable Children in Resource Poor Contexts.’ First National ECCD Conference, June, Garoka, Papua New Guinea, (Hayden, J.)

‘Identifying ECD research needs.’ Presentation and participant in UNICEF Global Consult on Developing an International Research Agenda. April, New York. (Hayden, J.)

‘Early childhood and disaster risk reduction.’ Invited presentation and advisor Global Consult, Global Framework for Quality ECD, April, New York University, Abu Dhabi. (Hayden, J.)

‘Perspectives on ECD in Emergency in the Asia Pacific Region: ARNEC eDiscussion.’ ARNEC, Singapore. (Cologon, K., and Hayden, J.)

‘Emergencies and Early Childhood.’ Global Consult, Global Framework for Quality ECD, April, New York University, Abu Dhabi. (Hayden, J.)

‘Environments that inspire our young bright sparks.’ Paper presented at the Early Childhood Australia national Conference, October, Adelaide. (Hodge, K.)

‘When a young child’s development is advanced: Program directions from North America and the UK.’ Paper presented at the Inaugural Children and Childhoods Symposium, September, Institute of Early Childhood. (Hodge, K.)

‘Goodwill or irritation? The beliefs and experiences of preschool and childcare teachers in NSW regarding parents who view their child as gifted.’ Paper presented at the 11th Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness, August, Sydney. (Hodge, K.)

‘Young children who are very able: What facilitates optimal engagement and learning in their education?’ Scottish Network for Able Pupils (SNAP), University of Glasgow, Glasgow, June, Scotland. (Hodge, K., and Grant, A.)


‘Perhaps all we need is a bit of courage: Opening spaces for new dialogue around leadership.’ Paper presented at Creating New Frontiers in Early Childhood: The first national early childhood leadership conference and roundtable, November, Sydney. (Semann, A. IEC’s HDR candidate)

‘Young children who are very able: What facilitates optimal engagement and learning in their education?’ Invited paper presented at the meeting of Scottish Network for Able Pupils (SNAP), University of Glasgow, Glasgow, June, Scotland. (Hodge, K., and Grant, A.)

‘Young gifted children: What facilitates optimal engagement and learning in their education?’ Invited paper presented at the meeting of South West Gifted and Talented Education (SWGaTE), June, Torquay, UK., (Hodge, K., and Grant A.)

‘Strengthening language and literacy practices in low socioeconomic area preschools: lessons in an Australian context.’ Paper presented at the International Reading Association- 23rd World Congress on Reading, July, Auckland, New Zealand. (McNaught, M.)


‘Outdoor play and social skills in the early school years: Preliminary findings from the Sydney Playground Project.’ Poster paper presented at 20th European Early Childhood Educators Research Association Annual Conference, September, University of Birmingham, UK. (Wyver, S., Bundy, A., Schiller, W., Tranter, P., Naugton, G., and Ragen, J.)


‘Introduction to practitioner inquiry/action research.’ Paper presented at the Montessori Australia action research workshop, May, Sydney. (De Gioia, K., Hadley, F.)

IEC Spotlight

Unpacking Conference

The annual Unpacking Conference run in conjunction with Semann and Slattery was held on March 12 and 13 2010. It was offered to, and enjoyed by, early childhood educators interested in thinking through challenges from Reggio Emilia in Australian contexts.

Co-convenors: Alma Fleet and Janet Robertson

Professional Development Keynote addresses and workshops were presented in two cities for New Zealand prior to school educators in conjunction with Semann and Slattery consultants. Topics included Leadership (Anthony Semann and Wendy Shepherd), Outdoor learning environments (Robertson, J.) and Documenting early years curriculum (Fleet, A. and Honig, T.)

‘Perhaps all we need is a bit of courage: Opening spaces for new dialogue around leadership.’ Paper presented at Creating New Frontiers in Early Childhood: The first national early childhood leadership conference and roundtable, November, Sydney. (Semann, A. IEC’s HDR candidate.)

The Children and Childhoods Symposium

This inaugural event was held at IEC on 24 and 25 September 2010. It brought together 70 participants from diverse professional backgrounds that all have children as their focus. It showcased IEC research and provided opportunities for academics to come together to network and identify possible collaborations.

Committee: Katey De Goia, Peter Whiteman, Fay Hadley, Rebecca Andrews, Sheila Degotardi, Amanda Niland, Emma Pearson, Kathy Cologan

Honouring our Alumni

In this era of competition, consolidation and economic rationalism within universities and the rapid changes with reforms in the early childhood sector, the Institute is committed to demonstrating and celebrating our graduate capabilities to the university community, our sector partners and the community at large.

On 4 November 2010, the Institute of Early Childhood acknowledged the achievements of one of our Alumni and applauded and celebrated her many successes. The Institute honoured Alumni Ms Leanne Gibbs, CEO of Community Child Care Cooperative.

Alumni Profile

Leanne Gibbs graduated in 1984 with a Diploma of Teaching and in 1992 with a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood) from the Institute of Early Childhood. Leanne completed postgraduate studies at Macquarie graduating in 2008 with a Masters in Politics and Public Policy.