



# WAVES OF WISDOM EARLY CHILDHOOD RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Southern Cross University, Gold Coast Campus 1 May 2026

Gold Coast Airport, Terminal Drive, Bilinga QLD 4225

**Registration, Keynote and Plenary Sessions in Building C**

**Friday 1 May Conference: Registrations 8.30 - 9.00 am**

**Opening Address 9.00 am**

**Welcome to Country 9.15 am**

**Keynote Address 1: 9.25 – 10.10 am Building C516**

**Dr Cris Townley**

**Provocations in early childhood education and care: Gender diverse children and queer parents"?**

**Morning Tea 10.15 – 10.45 am**

**Concurrent Session 1: 10.45 - 11.45 am**

**RESEARCH I (GC416)**

Rayj Xavier: Early Childhood Educators' Confidence and Willingness to Teach STEM

Mary Devasahayam: Designing for Dialogue: Reggio-Inspired and Sustainability-Oriented Environments Supporting STEM Inquiry and Science Language in Early Childhood

Monique Fuss: Priscilla turns up the volume for: Aesthetic Education

**Focus Group (GC516)**

Cris Townley Workshop:

Creative provocations in early childhood settings: Exploring LGBT families and gender diversity through doll play. Please note- Participants interested in this workshop can opt in to be part of a research focus group.

**Lunch 11.45 am – 12.30 pm**

## Keynote Address 2: 12.30 - 1.15 pm Building C516

Distinguished Professor Susan Danby  
Whose Wellbeing? Young Children's Digital Rights

### Concurrent Session 2: 1.20 – 2.20 pm

#### RESEARCH 2 (GC416)

Lucia Stacchiotti: La piazza-like spaces: inhabitation, relationality, and democratic life in Australian early childhood contexts

Trent Davis: Reimagining Physical Literacies in Early Childhood Education

Fazlin Mohd Nazir: Strengthening connections between schools and culturally and linguistically diverse (CaLD) families in the early years of school: Listening to CaLD families' voices

#### RESEARCH 3 (GC516)

Nilofar Jahan (Virtual): Can risky play be safe? How educators support play-based learning in outdoor environments in Australia ECEC settings: A systematic literature review

Birdwings Forest School: The LEAF Framework: A Practice-Based Model for Nature-Connected Early Childhood Education

Simranjeet Kaur (Virtual): Educators' digital self-efficacy for fostering young children's digital play and learning in Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) centres in Western Australia.

### Concurrent Session 3: 2.30 – 3.30 pm

#### PROVOCATION 1 (GC416)

Melissa Smile Are We Underusing Music as a Workforce Strategy?

Lucia Stacchiotti: Care-full Against the Tide: Micro Acts of Temporal Resistance as Active Hope in ECEC

Karthika Viknarasa: The teacher shortage is fake news!

Brooke Hammond: When "Strength-Based" Silences: Rethinking Language in Early Childhood

#### RESEARCH 4 (GC516)

Nicky Thompson (Virtual): Professional Wisdom in the Age of Generative AI: Where Are the Waves Taking Early Childhood Reflective Practice?

Margarita Ghezzi: Riding the Swell Together: What Brain Train Teaches Us About Building Wise Educator–Family Partnerships for Children's Self-Regulation

Myrto Mavilidi (Virtual): Integrating embodied learning in a digital environment in young children

## Keynote 3: 3.40 - 4.25pm Building C516

Professor Andrea Nolan

**The ECEC workforce: Swimming with the tide while negotiating waves of complexity**

**Conference Close 4.25-4:30pm**