



The OSHC Conference 2025

A conference focused on
OSHC, tailored to your needs.

Tuesday 27 May and Wednesday 28 May
9.30am–2.30pm
Online – join from anywhere!

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Everything you need to empower and
inform your practice, from the sector's
most innovative and passionate voices.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Community Child Care Association (CCC) acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this nation and the Traditional Custodians 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. Sovereignty of these lands was never ceded. We support Treaty.



Artwork by Yorta Yorta and
Gunnai artist Dixon Patten.



**Day one,
Tuesday 27 May
2025**

9.30am

Welcome to Country

We will officially begin with a Welcome to Country from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Together, we'll take a moment to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we each learn and grow.

Introduction and welcome

Julie Price

Executive Director – Community Child Care Association

10.00am

KEYNOTE: Cultivating connection*

Costa Georgiadis

Environmental educator, landscape architect, Junior Landcare Ambassador, and host of Gardening Australia Junior

Connection is at the heart of Costa's work, educating on sustainable practices and encouraging young and old to enjoy the natural environment. A passionate advocate for biodiversity, regenerative agriculture and permaculture, Costa is also the Ambassador for Junior Landcare, encouraging children to get out, be active and make a difference in the environment around them.

A Q&A at the end of the session will give you an opportunity to tap into Costa's knowledge and passion, gaining insights and inspiration to cultivate a love for nature and sustainable practices in the children you support.

** Please note: this session will not be recorded.*



DAY ONE, Continued

11.05am–
11.50am

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Choose one):

BREAKOUT 1: Incorporating children's voices and values in your Quality Improvement planning

Bryony Catlin and Aisha Grewal

Professional Support Consultants – Community Child Care Association

Understanding and incorporating children's voices and values in your Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) can feel daunting, but it's a critical step in creating a program that truly reflects the needs and priorities of the children you work with.

You will discover how to authentically include children's values and perspectives in your QIP to create meaningful, child-centred practices. This session addresses key points, such as including how to discover and understand what children's values are, effective ways to hear and respond to children's voices in QIP, and how you can make QIP planning easier and more impactful at your service.

BREAKOUT 2: Emotional regulation in OSHC

Nicole Lees

Be You Consultant – Early Childhood Australia

Educators in OSHC face unique challenges in supporting children's emotional regulation and behaviour, such as managing a broad age range, navigating time-of-day factors, working within shared spaces and accommodating diverse learning activities.

Nicole will share actionable insights to help educators manage immediate emotional regulation challenges, while also providing longer-term support for children displaying concerning behaviours. This session will give practical strategies and tools for creating a mentally healthy learning environment tailored to OSHC.

BREAKOUT 3: Taking learning outdoors with First Nations perspectives

Sam Harrison

Environmental Educator – Junior Landcare; Director - Labcoat Learnings

Adam Shipp

Proud Wiradjuri man and First Nations Educator

Discover how to create meaningful and culturally respectful outdoor learning experiences that connect children with Country and community. With actionable strategies and culturally appropriate approaches, this session will empower you to embed First Nations perspectives into your program, while deepening children's connection to the natural world.

Adam and Sam will share practical advice and resources, including connecting with Traditional Owners and First Nations organisations in your area, guiding students through localised habitat observation and seasonal exploration, and utilising Junior Landcare resources.

DAY ONE, Continued

11.05am–
11.50am

BREAKOUT 4: Understanding unions in society

Bindi Smith

National Coordinator – United Workers Union (UWU)

Unions play a vital role in advocating for workers' rights and shaping equitable workplaces. This session offers an insightful introduction to the union movement and its impact on society, with practical takeaways.

This session is perfect for those seeking to better understand workplace rights and the role unions play in achieving meaningful change for educators. You will gain a clear understanding of the union movement's purpose and value, practical knowledge of the differences between Awards and Enterprise Agreements (EAs), and find out how you can get involved.

Hard to choose?

*CCC members get exclusive access to session recordings (excluding sessions with a *), as well as a member-only discount on their conference ticket.*

[Become a CCC member now!](#)

11.55am

PRESENTATION: Becoming a global citizen to make a difference in the world

Margaret Hepworth

Founder Director – The Gandhi Experiment

How can shifting from overwhelm to hope empower young people to build a better world? Through engaging ideas and activities, this session will empower you to inspire hope, creativity and critical thinking in young people, transforming feelings of doom into meaningful action.

Key learnings include how the 'Positive Reality' methodology transforms negative thinking into actionable hope, strategies to help young people develop a sense of purpose as global citizens, and practical ways to guide young people in building stronger, safer communities.

12.45pm

Lunch break

1.15pm

PLENARY: Multiple perspectives in OSHC

Dr Bruce Hurst

Research Fellow – Melbourne Graduate School of Education

A/P Jennifer Cartmel


Associate Professor – Griffith University

Discover the benefits of incorporating multiple perspectives into your service operations and planning. This session will explore findings from an international research project on OSHC, which revealed the varying expectations among children, educators and principals. By understanding and embracing these perspectives, educators can create exciting possibilities for OSHC programs that honour all voices.

You will leave with practical strategies to positively frame different perspectives on OSHC, understand what is most important to children in OSHC settings, and more.

2.15pm

Day one wrap-up, thank you and close



**Day two,
Wednesday 28
May 2025**

9.30am **Acknowledgement of Country and welcome back**
Daniela Kavoukas
Service Delivery Manager – Community Child Care Association

9.45am **KEYNOTE: Leadership in unexpected places**
Dr Leanne Gibbs
Senior lecturer, Charles Sturt University

Leadership is something we're always striving to understand, improve and nurture – but are we looking for it in the wrong places? What if leadership isn't about finding a hero, but about creating the right conditions for it to emerge and thrive?

In this keynote, Leanne will challenge traditional notions of leadership and explore how it can be cultivated in OSHC settings. With a unique approach that mixes research with pop culture references, Leanne will provide insights that inspire practical change and empower you to reimagine leadership in your service.

10.30am **KEYNOTE: Getting curious about food***
Alice Zaslavsky
Award-winning author, broadcaster and food educator

Food education is about more than just meals – it's a pathway to healthier, more sustainable lives for children. By learning how to grow, harvest, prepare and share fresh produce, children can build lifelong habits that nourish themselves and those around them.

Alice will share practical strategies, discuss her latest cookbook, and show how these lessons can be seamlessly integrated into OSHC programs to encourage children to try new foods, foster curiosity and develop food literacy.

** Please note: this session will not be recorded.*

DAY TWO, Continued

11.20am–
12.05pm

BREAKOUT SESSIONS (Choose one):

BREAKOUT 1: Active and engaged children in OSHC

Professor Carol Maher

Professor of Population Health – University of South Australia

Discover innovative programs to keep children active and engaged. This session will be packed with actionable insights to energise your programming, upskill your team and showcase your service's commitment to active play during assessment visits.

Balancing engaging physical activities with screen time in OSHC can be challenging for educators – the Activated OSHC accreditation program can help transform your service's approach to physical activity and enhance children's wellbeing.

BREAKOUT 2: Bridging now to next: Reconciliation in OSHC

Amy Duncan and Chriss Wallwork

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education - Reconciliation Australian

OSHC services play a vital role in fostering reconciliation, actively contributing to bridging the gap and the ongoing connection between past, present and future. This session will highlight the significance of Reconciliation Action Plans (RAPs) as practical frameworks for driving meaningful change within OSHC settings.

You will gain the understanding and tools needed to meaningfully embed reconciliation into your daily practice, and contribute to a more just and equitable future for everyone within and across your learning communities.

BREAKOUT 3: Healthier food environments*

Emilia Renney

Senior Health Promotion Officer – Cancer Council Victoria and Accredited Practising Dietitian

OSHC services often face challenges in providing nutritious food options while working within tight budgets, time constraints and limited kitchen resources. This session will empower attendees with actionable strategies to improve food environments in OSHC services, helping children build healthier eating habits.

Explore how to create a healthier food environment through the Vic Kids Eat Well program. You will leave with hands-on strategies to make affordable, nutritious changes that children will enjoy, all while supporting positive health outcomes.

** Please note: this session will not be recorded.*

BREAKOUT 4: Supporting children with behaviours that challenge us

Helen Glouftis, Deanna Giuliani, Laura Carolan

VIA Inclusion Professionals

Supporting children with behaviours that challenge us in OSHC requires a balanced and inclusive approach. This session provides insights into effective strategies to create an environment where all children can thrive.

Through this session you will gain practical strategies to implement sensory-friendly spaces to support emotional regulation, use the "Stop and Think" approach for setting expectations, and develop a balance between structure and flexibility for better behaviour management.



DAY TWO, Continued

11.20am–
12.05pm

BREAKOUT 5: Embedding professional standards in OSHC

Paris McLaughlin

Coordinator – YMCA Warrigal Road OSHC (QLD)

Recruiting, training and retaining educators in OSHC can be challenging, particularly with the diverse backgrounds and experiences many educators bring to their roles. While this diversity is a strength, it also highlights the need for tailored induction and training processes to build confidence, competence and engagement.

In this session, Paris shares her experience using the OSHC Professional Standards for educators to create an induction, training and development plan tailored to her service. By aligning with these standards, Paris identified performance gaps, nurtured future leaders and empowered her team to engage in their professional growth. You will leave with actionable insights to implement training and development processes that enhance educator retention, confidence and capacity.

Hard to choose?

*CCC members get exclusive access to session recordings (excluding sessions with a *), as well as a member-only discount on their conference ticket.*

[Become a CCC member now!](#)

12.05pm

PRESENTATION: Play – rights, realities and global perspectives

Robyn Monro Miller AM

CEO – Play Australia; President – International Play Association

When it comes to play, it's easy to get caught up in jargon and lofty statements, but what is the real value of play and how can we prioritise it in our services? This session reinvigorates the way we think about play, taking it off the "to-do" list and into everyday practice.

In this presentation, Robyn explores how play impacts children's development and how educators can create environments that encourage and celebrate play. By the end, you will be equipped with strategies to champion play as a core aspect of your service and as an advocate in your community.

12.50pm

Lunch break

1.25pm

PLENARY: Leadership in OSHC

Catharine Hydon

Director – Hydon Consulting

Many leaders question what effective leadership looks like and how to build confidence in their roles. This session explores what it takes to be a great leader in OSHC, focusing on the dual aspects of leadership: stance (how you show up) and dance (what you do).

Catharine invites leaders to reflect on their own practices and empowers them to embrace their roles with confidence and purpose. By the end of the session, you will have gained actionable ideas and strategies to build confidence as leaders and strengthen teams and provide meaningful outcomes for children.

2.15pm

Wrap up, thank you and close

Lucy Harberts

Sector Development – Community Child Care Association

Complimentary in-person events



PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Monday 26 May 2025,
9.45am–11.45am

Spiritual Healing Trail and weaving activity

Uncle Trevor Gallagher

Aboriginal Elder and cultural educator

Immerse yourself in a unique cultural journey with Uncle Trevor Gallagher, designed to inspire connection, creativity and mindfulness. You will come away with new perspectives to inspire your programs and engage children in meaningful, culturally enriched activities.

- **Weaving activity (30 mins):** Engage in a hands-on cultural weaving activity that fosters creativity and connection.
- **Guided walk (1 hr 15 mins):** Explore the surroundings on a reflective walk, connecting with nature and cultural stories.
- **Concluding lunch:** Enjoy a shared meal to reflect on the experience and strengthen community bonds.

Note: Numbers for this session are strictly capped at 25 participants to ensure an intimate and impactful experience.

Location: Darebin Parklands

DAY ONE TWILIGHT EVENING EVENT

Tuesday 27 May 2025,
6.30pm–8.30pm

Cook, connect and discover: A culinary journey together

Spensley Street Primary School OSHC

Food is at the heart of community, learning and wellbeing. This interactive session invites you to unleash your inner chef and discover how OSHC programs can fuel fun and learning through healthy, delicious snacks.

- **Interactive cooking:** Hands-on activities to create and enjoy nutritious snacks.
- **Community connection:** Share stories, recipes and celebrations while fostering meaningful connections.
- **Behind-the-scenes access:** Explore Spensley Street's innovative set-up and documentation for inspiration.

Note: Numbers for this session are strictly capped at 30 participants to ensure an intimate and impactful experience.

Location: Spensley Street Primary School

Keynote speakers



Costa Georgiadis

Environmental educator, landscape architect, Junior Landcare Ambassador, and host of Gardening Australia Junior

Costa is a landscape architect, environmental educator, author and television presenter with a contagious passion for plants, people and the natural world. Best known as the host of the ABC's iconic *Gardening Australia* since 2013, Costa has won a Silver Logie and AACTA Award for his engaging and inspiring work.



Alice Zaslavsky

Author, broadcaster and food educator

Alice is an internationally acclaimed author, broadcaster and advocate for vegetable-first cooking. Her cookbooks, published in 15 countries and translated into seven languages, have inspired people worldwide to rethink their approach to food. As the Culinary Correspondent for ABC News Breakfast, Alice connects audiences of all ages with the joys of cooking, sustainability and fresh produce.



Dr Leanne Gibbs

Senior Lecturer – Charles Sturt University

Leanne is a Senior Lecturer at Charles Sturt University with 40 years of experience in early childhood education, specialising in leadership, children's rights and advocacy. Known for her engaging and creative approach, Leanne's passion for the sector remains undiminished, even after decades of making a difference for children and families.

Speaker bios



Adam Shipp

Proud Wiradjuri man and First Nations Educator

Adam is a proud Wiradjuri man whose bloodlines through his father extend across Dubbo, Parkes and other regions of Central West NSW. Adam has been working in the Environment/Natural Resource Management sector since 2011, and also runs his own business, Yurbay ("seed" in Wiradjuri language).



Aisha Grewal (she/her)

Professional Support Consultant – Community Child Care Association

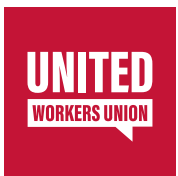
Aisha brings 15 years of expertise in compliance, Assessment and Rating preparation, and achieving Exceeding ratings. A passionate advocate for high-quality OSHC programs, Aisha combines professional insights with her experience as a parent and holds multiple qualifications in education leadership.



Amy Duncan

Education Partnerships – Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education

Amy is passionate about ensuring everyone working across the education sector has the resources to build meaningful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, creating sustainable and systemic change.



Bindi Smith

National Coordinator – United Workers Union (UWU)

Bindi is the National Coordinator for early childhood education and care unions. With a career spanning years of dedication to children's education and care, Bindi's passion for improving conditions for educators led her to become a union advocate. She is committed to empowering educators to create workplaces that are fair, respectful and impactful.



Dr Bruce Hurst

Research Fellow – Melbourne Graduate School of Education

Bruce is a Research Fellow at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education and one of the few researchers specialising in OSHC. Bruce's work uses participatory research to seek children's perspectives and reframe how they are understood in OSHC settings.

Speaker bios continued



Bryony Catlin (she/her)

Professional Support Consultant – Community Child Care Association

Bryony, who has worked in early childhood for 18 years, specialises in National Law, Regulations and Compliance with the National Quality Standards, along with expertise in *My Time, Our Place*. A registered teacher, Bryony delivers professional learning to improve OSHC quality state-wide.



Professor Carol Maher (she/her)

Professor of Population Health – University of South Australia

Carol's 10-year research journey, sparked by a conversation about OSHC differences, culminated in the Activated OSHC program. With over 250 publications to her name, Carol specialises in creating scalable, system-level health interventions that empower communities. Her work bridges research, government and industry, driving impactful changes in health and wellbeing.



Catharine Hydon

Director – Hydon Consulting

Catharine specialises in early childhood education and care. With over 30 years' experience, Catharine works alongside leaders and educators to explore the connection between theory and practice, focusing on governance, pedagogy and quality improvement. A Fellow of the Institute of Community Directors Australia, she is a Board Member of the Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority and a second-tier reviewer for ACECQA.



Chriss Wallwork

RAP Community Officer – Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Education

Chriss has worked in early childhood care and education since 2012 and been involved in RAP working groups since 2013. A passionate educator, Chriss sees reconciliation in education as an essential component to a meaningful and well-rounded education that will support children, educators, families and communities across Australia.



Daniela Kavoukas

Service Delivery Manager – Community Child Care Association

Daniela is a tenacious leader who steered her community-owned co-op from struggle to success. Daniela's acumen as a talented educator was recognised when she was awarded the Inspirational Educator Award in 2013 and the National Teaching Award in 2014. A former board member of the Children's Services Coordinators Association, Daniela is passionate about providing a voice for service directors and educators.



Emilia Renney (she/her)

Senior Health Promotion Officer – Cancer Council Victoria; Accredited Practising Dietitian

Emilia leads the Vic Kids Eat Well program, supporting organisations to create healthier food environments. Emilia's career spans sports nutrition, aged care and health promotion, reflecting her passion for reducing health inequities.

Speaker bios continued



A/P Jennifer Cartmel
Associate Professor – Griffith University

Jennifer focuses on professionalising the OSHC workforce and researching children's social and emotional wellbeing. Jennifer works with governments and peak associations to deepen understanding of OSHC and support educators in improving practice.



Julie Price
Executive Director – Community Child Care Association

Julie is a skilled leader and manager who draws on her studies in organisational psychology to lead Community Child Care Association into its next phase of development. Julie's vision is to build on the strong history of CCC as a leader and advocate for not-for-profit and community-owned education and care services.



Lucy Harberts (she/her)
Sector Development – Community Child Care Association

Lucy is a passionate advocate for a thriving community-based OSHC sector, with over 30 years of OSHC experience across primary schools and local government services, tertiary teaching, and sector advocacy. She recognises the vital role OSHC services play in supporting children, families, and local communities. Recently, Lucy completed a Permaculture Design Certificate and is an active member of local groups progressing sustainability.



Margaret Hepworth (she/her)
Founder – The Gandhi Experiment

Margaret is an international peace educator with over 30 years' experience, having led intercultural and global citizenship workshops worldwide, championing principles like ethical leadership, inclusivity and conflict transformation. Her mission is to empower educators and students to create mindful, hopeful solutions for a brighter future.



Nicole Lees (she/her)
Be You Consultant – Early Childhood Australia

Nicole has extensive experience in education, leadership and research, including international roles in Japan and South Korea. Holding qualifications in Early Childhood Education and a Master of Childhood and Youth Studies, Nicole is a published expert on children's wellbeing and spirituality.



Paris McLaughlin (she/her)
Coordinator – YMCA Warrigal Road OSHC (QLD)

With nine years of OSHC experience, Paris has served as an educator, educational leader and coordinator. Her background in tourism and marketing management honed her skills in training and development, which she now applies to OSHC. Paris is passionate about empowering educators and is engaged in an Action Research project on induction and training with Griffith University and Queensland Children's Activities Network (QCAN).

Speaker bios continued



Robyn Monro Miller AM (she/her)

CEO – Play Australia; President – International Play Association

Robyn is a renowned advocate for children's wellbeing. With over 35 years in education and policy reform, she played a key role in developing Australia's *My Time, Our Place* framework. In 2025, Robyn will undertake a Churchill Fellowship to explore global play initiatives to inform a national agenda for play.



Sam Harrison

Environmental Educator – Junior Landcare; Director – Labcoat Learning

Sam is a teacher, environmental educator and field naturalist, passionate about hands-on learning about the environment. Sam has worked in environmental education for the last 20 years, and is also the director of Labcoat Learning, a science incursion company.



Uncle Trevor Gallagher

Aboriginal Elder and cultural educator

A respected cultural educator, Uncle Trevor Gallagher has dedicated his life to sharing the traditions and stories of his people. Through hands-on activities and storytelling, Uncle Trevor inspires understanding and respect for First Nations cultures.



Victorian Inclusion Agency (VIA)

Led by Community Child Care Association, in collaboration with KU and Yooralla, VIA is part of the Australian Government-funded Inclusion Support Program. VIA provides free support to eligible services, helping them overcome barriers and build inclusive practices across long day care, family day care and OSHC services.

Hear from our 2024 attendees

“Go! If you get one thing out of it, it will improve your service and give you more knowledge to work as an educator.”

Megan, Tecoma Primary School OSHC, Victoria

“Highly informative – it covered a large variety of content.”

Nathan, Ardtornish OSHC, South Australia



Get ready to immerse yourself in two unforgettable days of learning, networking and inspiration – all at an unbeatable price! Book early to secure your spot.

PLUS members get access to available recordings of conference sessions.

**Please note: Sessions marked with an asterisk are not available as a recording.*

PRICING DETAILS (ALL INCLUDING GST):

Early bird (available up until Monday 31 March 2025):

- Members: \$159
- Non-members: \$209

Standard pricing (as of Tuesday 1 April 2025):

- Members: \$199
- Non-members: \$269

Heads up! The optional in-person events, detailed on page 9, are exclusively free for ticketholders. Spots are limited, so it's first in, best dressed! These events are expected to fill up fast, so don't wait – secure your place now.



Join us for this insightful and inspiring conference, uniquely tailored to the needs of OSHC educators and leaders.

BOOK NOW!

Please note: The program could be subject to change.

“Broad range of topics to learn about. Easy to access and participate.”

Narelle, Hills Outside School Care Association, Western Australia

“It’s the best professional development I’ve ever done! So unbelievably rich in knowledge and passion.”

Lucy, Brunswick East Primary School OSHC, Victoria

About us

Since 1971, Community Child Care Association (CCC) has been a leading voice for community-based early childhood education and care, as well as outside school hours care (OSHC) services. As a peak body for OSHC and the state branch of the National Outside School Hours Services Alliance (NOSHSA), we’ve been at the forefront of advocating for and supporting the sector.

CCC offers comprehensive support to our members nationwide through professional development, tailored resources, and expert consultancy services. We’re also a powerful voice for the issues that matter most to the sector, providing leadership, advocacy and collaboration with governments to shape policies and practices.

At CCC, we are committed to building a thriving, inclusive, and high-quality education and care sector, ensuring children, families and communities are at the heart of everything we do.

Join CCC or find out more at www.cccinc.org.au

