



REGENERATE

CONFERENCE 2026

Reviving passion, renewing practice.

A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR
EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADERS, EDUCATORS & ADMINISTRATION STAFF

24-25 July 2026

Mecure Hotel, Wagga Wagga

Proudly supported by our major sponsor



Day 1 - LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION - Friday 8:00am - 3:30pm

Day 2 - EDUCATOR PRACTICE IN ACTION - Saturday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Networking dinner - Friday from 6:00pm (Dinner optional. Not included in registration fee)

2 day ticket - \$600 1 day ticket - \$330 (Prices include GST)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – Phil Wolffe

Phil is the co-founder of Kinex Health, a leading provider of workplace wellbeing programs across Australia. With over 25,000 health consultations delivered, Phil specialises in practical, evidence-based tools that help teams feel better, perform better, and stay well.

REGISTRATION



Conference Coordinator - Larissa Balson
02 4223 1111 | larissa@ectarc.com.au

Limited spots available

Registrations close 10/7/26





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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 1

8:00am Registration opens

8:45am Welcome from Councillor Dallas Tout and ECTARC CEO Anita Kumar

9:15am **KEYNOTE**
Be Well, Do Well
Presented by Phil Wolffe

10:00am **MORNING TEA**

10:20am **ADMINISTRATION SESSION**
Caring without carrying - Supporting families and staff while maintaining boundaries
Presented by Jodie Faff

LEADERSHIP SESSION
Working Well Together: A Leader's Guide to Challenging Conversations
Presented by Phil Wolffe

12:30pm **LUNCH**

1:15pm **ADMINISTRATION SESSION**
Common Challenges, Collective Wisdom

Join fellow administration professionals for a facilitated discussion exploring the emerging trends, shared challenges and day to day realities of working within early childhood services. In this session we will draw on the collective wisdom within the room to explore practical approaches for navigating the evolving demands of the role.

LEADERSHIP SESSION
Common Challenges, Collective Leadership

Join fellow early childhood leaders for a facilitated conversation exploring the current trends, challenges and complexities of leadership in today's services. This session provides a space to reflect on shared experiences, from leading teams and managing competing priorities to supporting staff wellbeing and navigating family expectations. Together, we'll explore practical strategies, exchange insights and draw on the collective leadership in the room to strengthen practice and connection across the sector.

3:15pm **Reflection - all attend**

3:30pm **Close**



CONFERENCE SESSIONS INFORMATION

DAY 1 - KEYNOTE

Be Well, Do Well

Presented by Phil Wolffe

Early childhood work is demanding, meaningful, and unlike anything else. This session is about what it takes to show up well - for your team, for the children and families you serve, and for yourself. Drawing on the principles of functional accountability and personal resilience, you'll explore what it looks like when people own their work without blame, communicate challenges before they become crises, and find their way back to purpose when things get hard. Practical, honest, and built for the reality of working in ECEC in 2026.

What you'll take away:

- A practical understanding of functional accountability and how to apply it in your workplace
- Language and tools for communicating challenges early, clearly, and without blame
- Strategies for building a team culture where people follow through on what they commit to
- A personal resilience framework built around energy, purpose, and connection
- A simple practice to reconnect to your "why" when the work gets heavy
- One concrete behaviour to take back and act on from day one

DAY 1 SESSIONS

ADMINISTRATION SESSION

Caring without carrying - Supporting families and staff while maintaining boundaries

Presented by Jodie Faff

In early childhood settings, administration staff are often the first people families and educators turn to during challenging moments. From emotional family conversations to staff debriefs and everyday pressures, these interactions can be rewarding, but also emotionally demanding. This session explores practical strategies for supporting others with empathy while maintaining healthy professional boundaries. Participants will gain insight into managing difficult conversations, responding with confidence, protecting their own wellbeing, and knowing when to listen, support or refer on. A valuable and affirming session for those navigating the often unseen emotional load of administration roles.

LEADERSHIP SESSION

Working Well Together: A Leader's Guide to Challenging Conversations

Presented by Phil Wolffe

This hands-on session gives leaders the skills and confidence to approach difficult conversations with clarity, compassion, and professionalism. Through practical frameworks, step-by-step guidance, and real-world examples, participants learn how to reduce tension, stay steady under pressure, and lead conflict toward respectful, solution-focused outcomes.

What you'll take away:

- A clear structure for raising and working through difficult conversations
- Skills to stay calm and professional under pressure
- Greater confidence to address issues early and fairly





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CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 2

8:30am Registration opens

9:00am Welcome

9:10am **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

- Murrin Bridge Preschool
- Kindylane Preschool
- Hay Children's Services

10:00am **MORNING TEA**

10:20am **EDUCATOR PRACTICE IN ACTION**

SESSION 1 - Choose from 3 options

- Exploring Beyond the Service: Making the Most of Your Community
- Movement Matters - Embedding physical activity in Early Learning
- Inclusion through Connection

12:30pm **LUNCH**

1:15pm **EDUCATOR PRACTICE IN ACTION**

SESSION 2 - Choose from 3 options

- Exploring Beyond the Service: Making the Most of Your Community
- Movement Matters - Embedding physical activity in Early Learning
- Inclusion through Connection

3:15pm **Reflection - all attend**

3:30pm **Close**



CONFERENCE SESSIONS INFORMATION

DAY 2 - EDUCATOR IN PRACTICE SESSIONS

Choose one of the 3 options for session 1 and 2.

Exploring Beyond the Service: Making the Most of Your Community

Presented by Cas Tidey

Do you want to take the children out and about in the community, but it seems too hard? Or do you find yourself visiting the same old places when you do get out?

Join Cas Tidey from Hay Children's Services to discuss tangible strategies for exiting the service and embracing endless community connections. This session will help you consider and plan meaningful and exciting adventures, leading to a deeper connection to physical and social environments, reduction of challenging behaviours and a smoother school transition. We will unpack the who, what, why, when, where and how of regular outings and excursions, debunking myths and building your confidence along the way.

Movement Matters - Embedding physical activity in Early Learning

Presented by Jodie Broers

This highly practical workshop shows educators how to confidently embed physical activity guidelines into everyday early practice. Educators will explore strategies that increase children's daily movement, spark enjoyment, and support children to develop strong physical skills and lifelong healthy habits. Educators will actively practise Fundamental Movement Skills and leave with a toolkit of ready to use games, ideas, and strategies that can be immediately applied in their own early education and care service.

Inclusion through Connection

Presented by Melisa McKenny

Melisa McKenny is a Child and Family Practitioner and Training and Development Officer with ECTARC, and an experienced early childhood educator with a strong focus on inclusive practice and relationship-based approaches. As a Circle of Security Parenting (COSPP) Facilitator, Melisa draws on the Circle of Security to support educators in building secure, responsive relationships that promote children's emotional wellbeing, regulation, and sense of belonging.

In this presentation, Melisa will explore how connection is the foundation for inclusion, unpacking how children move between exploration and the need for connection, and what this means for everyday practice. She will share practical, evidence-informed strategies including co-regulation, the use of visual supports, and sensory tools to support children's regulation and engagement. Educators will gain a deeper understanding of behaviour as communication, and how adapting environments and responses can remove barriers to participation - helping all children engage, participate, and thrive.

