

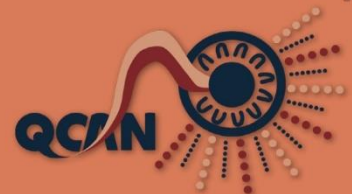


# FNQ

**EDUCATOR CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY**  
**21ST OCTOBER, 2023**

**TOWNSVILLE RSL CLUB**  
**139 CHARTERS TOWERS ROAD**  
**HERMIT PARK QUEENSLAND 4812**



# FNQ Educator Conference

Townsville RSL Club  
139 Charters Towers Road  
Hermit Park, Queensland 4812  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023

8am	Registration opens	
8.45am	Acknowledgement of Country	
9am – 10.30am	Opening presentation – Three in One Critical Reflection; Quality Improvement; and Action Research	Associate Professor Jennifer Cartmel
10.30am-11am	Morning tea	
11am – 12.30pm	Choosing to see children differently: Embracing images of children as capable citizens and collaborators	Dr Bruce Hurst
12.30pm – 1.15pm	Lunch	
1.15pm – 2.30pm	Behaviour as Communication: Deciphering the Code	Emily McKenna & Rarni Rothwell
2.30pm – 2.45pm	Coffee break	
2.45 – 4.00pm	PlayWork approaches in OSHC	Kylie Keane

## Sessions and Presenters

### **Three in One with Associate Professor Jennifer Cartmel**

There are many similarities between critical reflection, Quality Improvement Plans and action research. The OSHC sector is able to partake in all three activities at the same time if needed. This session will focus on a process that draws all 'three' together so that educators and service teams can collaborate about deepening insights about practice in OSHC services in a timely way. It will unpack the updated description about *Critical reflection and ongoing learning in My Time Our Place\_2.0*. and demonstrate how to use the questions to undertake critical reflection, Quality Improvement Plans and action research. This process will build confidence and professionalism with educators, contribute to high quality outcomes for children and provide much needed evidence for administrators, policy-makers and the wider community about the value of OSHC to the lives of children. **One process, three outcomes.**



#### **About Jennifer**

*Dr Jennifer Cartmel is a senior lecturer in the School of Human Services and Social Work. She has been involved in a wide range of research projects focussing on children's social and emotional learning and the workforce in children's services including child care settings and human service organisations. Her research interests include the role of critical reflection in the development of professional competencies, the interaction between educators and children in group settings, intergenerational practice and the many facets of outside school hours care services. She is a member of the World Education Research Association International Research Network for Extended Education and associate editor for the International Journal of Playwork Practice*

---

### **Choosing to see children differently: Embracing images of children as capable citizens and collaborators with Dr Bruce Hurst**

My Time, Our Place invites educators to think about how they see children. At first glance, this might seem like a strange question. Children are 'just' children right? The realities of children and how we see them are much more complex. Our images of childhood are not fixed but fluid, unstable and constantly changing. How different cultures see children has changed over centuries. At various points of time, Western cultures have seen children as evil, innocent, vulnerable, property, objects of control, playful and more recently, citizens and rights holders. The different images don't just

vanish to be replaced by new images and concepts. They linger and morph and continue to influence how we see children. Our images of childhood also intersect with other complexities like class, gender, race, culture, geography, ability and even the time of day.

The thing is, the images we hold of children, and also particular groups of children have practical implications. How might educators work if they see children as evil? As immature? As innocent? This session invites you to be brave and grapple with your own images of childhood and what they mean for the ways that you work with children. It will look at some of the dominant historical images of childhood and how they continue to influence contemporary Australian society. Choosing to see children differently is critical equity work that can transform OSHC services and how educators plan with and for children.



### **About Bruce**

*I have worked in and with Outside School Hours Care services for over 30 years in a range of roles including educator, coordinator and consultant. Currently I work as a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and Griffith University with a specific interest in OSHC. I was inspired to build a career in OSHC research*

*by Associate Professor Jennifer Cartmel, who I now proudly support on a range of research projects. My first and lingering research passion is seeking children's perspectives on OSHC settings. This is work that I think helps ground OSHC practices in what matters to children, something that can get lost in discussions of policy and politics. I have a growing list of academic, professional development and government publications. dissertation. In addition to my research roles, I am also the Deputy Chair of the Community Child Care Association. In 2014, I Freda Cohen Prize for my masters won the Through my work I hope to remind others of something that of us know, our services are important sites where children exercise their rights for play, leisure, safety, learning and citizenship.*

---

## **PlayWork in OSHC with Kylie Keane**

Playwork is recognised in My Time, Our Place V2.0 as the specific act of affecting the whole environment with intentionality to improve opportunities for play. Playwork has its roots in the early adventure playground movement and is underpinned by The Playwork Principles which establish the professional and ethical framework by which Playworkers ensure the right physical and psychological conditions for all children and young people to play. In this session Kylie will introduce you to the history of Playwork, key terminology and concepts including the Playwork Principles, Play Types and the Play Cycle. The session will offer practical examples and opportunities to critically reflect upon where to

begin, and how to embed, a Playwork approach with consideration to the planning cycle and documentation to improve children and young people's opportunities for play.



### **About Kylie**

*Kylie Keane, from Keen About..., is a Playworker and consultant with over a decades experience in Outside School Hours Care. Kylie has a wealth of experience in Playwork and Educational Leadership and has just returned from her 5<sup>th</sup> Study Tour overseas emersed in all things play and playwork. During this tour Kylie presented at the International Play Association Conference on how Playwork has*

*become viewed as a "quality" approach to Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia. Kylie believes that "Once you have an understanding of Playwork you cannot 'un-see' it. There is simply no other way of working with children."*

---

## **Behaviour as Communication: Deciphering the Code with Emily McKenna and Rarni Rothwell**

Have you been keeping up with the headlines on young people and their behaviour? Across the state we've been bombarded with articles highlighting "Queensland's naughtiest preppies", "The worst behaved children in Queensland," "Children with rights and no responsibilities". During this session we'll consider contemporary understandings of supporting children which require us to challenge society's current narrative about young people and their behaviour.

Before we can respond to children's behaviour, we first need to make sense of it; after all our explanations guide our interventions. But this can be problematic. Have you ever found yourself making assumptions about a child's behaviour? - "they're doing that on purpose", "they just want attention", "they could do this yesterday, why are they being defiant today?"

By focussing on behaviour as communication we can have "conversations, improve communication and provide a common language about promoting children and young people's play, leisure and learning" (MTOP pg 8). As we decipher the code, we can find stressors and reduce them, identify unmet needs and meet them, detect still developing skills and teach them.

It's amazing how this new explanation of behaviour can lead to collaborative problem solving and better outcomes for everyone – you included!



### **About Emily**

*Emily McKenna has been specialising in Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) specific training and quality improvement consultancy since 2020. Emily is an OSHC veteran, working in the sector for over ten years, holding various roles across her time in the profession. Her favourite role was as the Educational Leader & Coordinator at a 250-place service in Brisbane.*

*Emily holds qualifications in Occupational Therapy (Hons) with research focusing on meeting children's sensory needs. This year, she has commenced her PhD candidature, with the aim of understanding neurodiversity affirming practice across the OSHC sector. Her research interests are contemporary theoretical perspectives on behaviour, children's rights and creating inclusive environments. Emily has also undertaken critical action research to understand community perceptions of quality in OSHC.*



### **About Rarni**

*Rarni Rothwell has been facilitating early childhood education and care training and professional development since 2013. She is an OSHC veteran, working in the sector for 29 years, since beginning as a humble university student many years ago. Whilst completing her Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Psychology, she relished in the unique opportunities that school age care provided to children; especially those children that didn't fit neatly into formal education.*

*Having successfully supported countless children over the past decades, she has devoted her OSHC career to collaborative, child centred practice, grounded in critical reflection, children's rights and action research methodologies (a social scientist at heart). Her ponderings are heavily informed by contemporary theoretical perspectives, notably critical and post structuralist theories.*

---

### **Cost**

*All prices are inclusive of GST*

Individual Educator - \$250.00

Educator team of 3 - \$600.00

Register to attend here: [www.qcan.org.au/fnqeducatorconference](http://www.qcan.org.au/fnqeducatorconference)

---