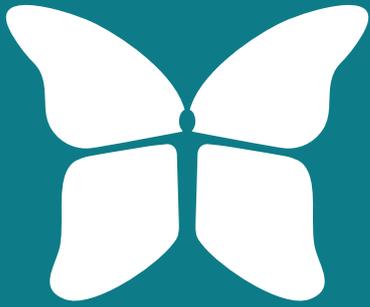


QEC  
2012



CONNECTING WITH FAMILIES: THROUGH  
COMMUNITY, CULTURE & COLLABORATION

7th INTERNATIONAL  
CONFERENCE  
15 & 16 NOVEMBER



## Conference aims:

Present cutting edge information on early childhood development and parenting

Assist service providers to develop long-term positive outcomes for the health, development and wellbeing of children and their families, and the staff who provide the services

Provide a forum for interdisciplinary debate

Present research informed best practice models of service

Integrate theory and practice.

## About QEC

Thousands of families across Victoria face physical, psychological, intellectual or environmental challenges that compromise their ability to provide an environment that nurtures and supports the health and wellbeing of their infants and young children.

For over 94 years QEC (formerly known as The Queen Elizabeth Centre) has helped these vulnerable and 'at risk' parents to manage challenges that arise during early parenthood. Through innovation in service delivery QEC keeps abreast of the changing community needs and adapts services extending across pre-birth, intensive and longer term interventions and case support until the child gets to 4 years of age.

Residential, DayStay, Group, Home Visiting and telephone advice services are delivered at QEC's Noble Park site, or through regional Outreach centres at Noble Park North, Coburg, Morwell and Wodonga.

QEC advocates child focused and family-centred practices underpinned by a philosophy that family is the principal source of care for children. It prides itself on offering services and programs that are culturally relevant and accessible to everyone.



### Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI)

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute is the largest and most prestigious child health research organisation in Australia. MCRI's team of 1,500 passionate researchers is driven by the excitement of discovery and the ambition to conduct innovative, world class research to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of children.

Murdoch Childrens Research Institute together with The Royal Children's Hospital Centre for Community Child Health and the Smith Family are working in partnership to deliver Let's Read.



### Let's Read

Let's Read is an established emergent literacy program conducted by Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) and The Smith Family.

The Let's Read National Early Years Literacy campaign builds on the existing evidence-based program and is an integrated Australia-wide program to promote reading with young children. The Campaign supports Australian children to gain the foundational skills for language, literacy and learning success.

Building on existing evidence-based programs, the Let's Read campaign engages families, professionals and communities to promote high quality early literacy environments for children aged 0–5 years.

National promotional activities and service embedding initiatives are being implemented to achieve our vision for all Australian children to share books, stories, songs and nursery rhymes every day through their relationships with the important people in their lives.

The campaign is supported by the new Let's Read website [www.letsread.com.au](http://www.letsread.com.au). Information for parents will be proudly affiliated with the reputable parenting website Raising Children Network [www.raisingchildren.net.au](http://www.raisingchildren.net.au).





## Welcome

QEC is delighted to bring to you the 2012 International Conference: Connecting with Families: through Community, Culture and Collaboration. The conference provides an opportunity to connect professionals from a wide range of disciplines, to share their practice and extend knowledge and understanding about what works best. Taking the time to come together to celebrate our work and forge new relationships is an important aspect of the conference and essential to enable us to reflect, refocus and sustain our energies and efforts to deliver more effective services and outcomes for children and families.

Once again we are pleased to have a large number of quality presentations, papers, poster displays and workshops. The varied range of presentations across the key themes, include newly developed and tested practice models and rich stories and experiences from the field. Connecting researchers and practitioners creates a forum for growth in evidence based practice and in extending practice informed research. The conference's broad themes are:

- Reflecting on Practice
- Working with Aboriginal and CALD Families
- Father Inclusive Practice
- Promoting Family and Infant Mental health
- Communities Supporting Young Children
- Quality Systems and Effective Policy.

On behalf of the Conference Organising Committee, the Board and Staff of QEC, I extend a very warm welcome and wish you all an enjoyable and productive conference.

**Athina Georgiou**

Chief Executive Officer

## Keynote Speakers

### Alicia Lieberman

Alicia F. Lieberman, Ph.D. is Irving B. Harris Endowed Chair of Infant Mental Health, Professor and Vice Chair for Academic Affairs at the UCSF Department of Psychiatry, and Director of the Child Trauma Research Program, San Francisco General Hospital.

She directs the Early Trauma Treatment Network, a center of the SAHMSA-funded National Child Traumatic Stress Network with the mission of increasing access and raising the standard of care for traumatized children, families and communities across the United States. She is a member of the board of the Irving Harris Foundation and member of the board of directors and past president of Zero to Three: The National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families.

She is the developer of Child-Parent Psychotherapy, an evidence-based treatment for children aged birth-five exposed to trauma or multiple adversities. She is the author or senior author of several books for parents and clinicians, including *The Emotional Life of the Toddler*; *Psychotherapy with Infants and Young Children: Repairing the Effect of Stress and Trauma on Early Attachment*; *Losing a Parent to Death in the Early Years: Treating Traumatic Bereavement in Infancy and Early Childhood*; and *Don't hit my mommy: A Manual for Child-Parent Psychotherapy with Young Witnesses of Domestic Violence* as well as numerous articles and chapters.

She lectures extensively in four continents and is a consultant to universities, government agencies and private foundations nationally and abroad. Her areas of special interest are the impact of traumatic exposure and adversity on infants and young children and cultural issues in child and family wellbeing.

### Christine Puckering

Christine is a clinical, neuro and forensic psychologist. Her research and clinical interests have always been in very early childhood and in particular, the impact of early parent-child relationships. The research evidence has grown that this period is indeed of vital importance and support for families in the early years pays off later. Christine is one of the authors and is currently principal trainer for Mellow Parenting, a charity which has developed a family of interventions from antenatal to the preschool years, to support good parent-child relationships. She also works with NSPCC in a project offering systematic evaluation and therapeutic interventions for families where a child under five has been removed because of child abuse or neglect. Christine's work with Mellow Parenting can be accessed via the Mellow Parenting website [www.mellowparenting.org](http://www.mellowparenting.org).

### Paul Prichard

Paul is the Training and Development Manager for the Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH), Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The Royal Children's Hospital (Vic). A major component of his current role is focused on building the CCCH Training & Development Unit including the design and delivery of specially tailored training for early childhood practitioners across Australia. This has included the design and implementation of a Learning and Development strategy to support the roll out of Child Family Centres across Tasmania.

Prior to joining the CCCH in 2009, Paul was National Programs and Development Manager of Good Beginnings Australia which provides a variety of preventative and early intervention parenting programs in over seventy programs around Australia. Paul played a key role in the development of Good Beginnings across Australia from its inception in 1997 through to 2009. He has extensive practice experience in working with families experiencing complex needs and special interest in the role of fathers in their children's lives.

A primary teacher by profession, Paul is currently undertaking a Masters of Arts by research, focusing on participant's experiences of the successful UK Empowering Parents Empowering Communities program, being trialed in Tasmania.

## **Dorothy Scott**

Emeritus Professor Dorothy Scott, the Foundation Chair of Child Protection and the inaugural Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia, has pioneered innovative approaches to preventing, and responding to, child abuse and neglect. Her clinical experience is in the fields of foster care and adoption, sexual assault and maternal mental health. Professor Scott advises State and Commonwealth Governments on child protection

## **Adrian Appo**

Adrian is a Gureng Gureng man from southeast Queensland. After qualifying as an electrician, he served with distinction in the Royal Australian Air Force qualifying as a Telecommunication Technician. He instructed in the electrical trades after studying and receiving a Bachelor of Teaching. Adrian then moved into labour market recruitment positions with the Federal Government and private employment agencies. He continued in his community development by becoming a Graduand of the Fairley Goulburn Community Leadership Programme followed by the prestigious Williamson Community Leadership Programme, as well as in 2009 studying at the Harvard School of Business in the Strategic Perspectives Non-Profit Leadership program. He has gathered a raft of awards and accolades that include a Defense Service Medal, Centenary Medal and Order of Australia Medal.

Often referred to as a 'social entrepreneur', Adrian has been a cornerstone in the establishment of Ganbina and the development and implementation of its successful school to work transitions program that leads the sector at both the state and national level.

Adrian's practical insights are very much sort after for regional, state and national committees and forums. He is especially consulted in the areas of school to work transition and Indigenous employment and economic development.



## **Ian St James-Roberts**

Ian St James-Roberts is Emeritus Professor of Child Psychology, based in the Thomas Coram Research Unit, Institute of Education, University of London, UK. He holds an honours degree in Psychology and Philosophy and a PhD in Psychology from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society. He has conducted research into children's emotional and behavioural development and problems with the support of the United Kingdom Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council, Government Home Office, Health Service Executive, Youth Justice Board for England & Wales, and business organisations. He has served on a variety of scientific and professional bodies, including the Executive Committee of the UK Society for Infant Mental Health, Editorial Board of Archives of Disease in Childhood, Editorial Board of Current Pediatric Reviews, Research Advisory Group for the National Childbirth Trust, and review panels for international scientific journals and grant authorities. He has acted as Consultant to television series: Baby Monthly; Nanny Knows Best; Child of Our Time. He has published extensively in medical and psychological journals, co-edited two books on infant crying and sleeping problems, and spoken at scientific and professional meetings all over the world. His most recent book, published by Routledge in 2012, is called 'The Origins, Prevention and Treatment of Infant Crying & Sleeping Problems: an evidence-based guide for healthcare professionals and the families they support.

## **Professor Frank Oberklaid**

Professor Frank Oberklaid AOM, MD, FRACP is the Foundation Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital and a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne. Professor Oberklaid is an internationally recognised researcher, author, lecturer and consultant, and has written two books and over 200 scientific publications. His work has been acknowledged in the form of a number of prestigious awards and many invited international lectureships and visiting professorships. He is Chair of the Victorian Children's Council, which advises the Premier and Ministers on child health policy, and chairs or is a member of several important national policy committees.

## **Judge Paul Grant**

Judge Paul Grant is a graduate of Monash University in both Arts and Law. He was admitted to practice as a solicitor in 1979. After a brief period working as an employee solicitor, His Honour went to the Bar and practised in criminal law. His Honour was also a tutor in Legal Studies and the MBA at Deakin University in 1980 and 1981.

In 1985 His Honour left the Bar and joined the firm of Slater and Gordon. He worked as an "in house" advocate — predominantly in the criminal jurisdiction.

In 1988 His Honour was appointed a Magistrate. He was a Magistrate in the Children's Court from 1990 to 1992. In 2001 His Honour was appointed State Co-ordinating Magistrate and in 2003 a Deputy Chief Magistrate. He was also appointed as the first Supervising Magistrate for Koori Courts in 2004.

From 2001 to 2006 His Honour was a member of the Metropolitan Regional Justice Advisory Committee and in 2002 was the recipient of an Indigenous Community Justice Award for "outstanding efforts in working to improve social justice outcomes for the Koori Community in the Melbourne Metropolitan Region." In 2006 His Honour was the recipient of a further Award for "his outstanding contribution towards improved social justice for the Koori Community".

His Honour was also a member of the Victorian Child Death Review Committee between 2001 and 2004.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of April 2006 His Honour was appointed a Judge of the County Court and on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2006 President of the Children's Court of Victoria.



## Pre Conference Workshop Wednesday 14 November

### Working with Disadvantaged Families Using Video

Christine will share her experience of Mellow Bumps and working with families who have addiction issues, previous child protection concerns, and mental health concerns including the effect of trauma, family violence and childhood sexual abuse.

All services find that there are families who are “harder to reach” and are reluctant to engage. The “inverse care law” describes how the most needy are the least likely to accept help (Tudor Hart, 1972).

This day workshop will look at the factors behind this reluctance and methods of recruiting the families who often need help. In the morning, the Mellow Parenting model, based primarily on attachment theory, will be explored and methods found to have been successful in working with needy families demonstrated and tried out.

In the afternoon, the use of video, a powerful but potentially threatening tool, will be explored and methods of introducing this illustrated (see Mellow Parenting website).

The Mellow Parenting Observational System will be introduced. The System can be used not only as a vehicle for positive feedback to families but as an evaluation and research tool.

To register for the pre conference workshop, please click [here](#).

## Conference Program: Thursday 15 November – Friday 16 November

To view the full Conference program detailing concurrent sessions and workshops please click [here](#). This program is provisional and subject to change

### Registration

For details on registration costs and instruction on registering for the conference, please click [here](#).

For all further information regarding the conference, please visit the QEC 7th International Conference website [here](#).



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