

Welcome to the AEDC NSW 2021 Research Symposium

Thursday 12 August 2021

Dear colleagues,

AEDC NSW has created an opportunity through this research symposium for diverse stakeholders to come together and integrate the evidence. It is also an opportunity to reflect on the value of the AEDC dataset to improve outcomes for children in your community.

We hope that this symposium will be the first of many as we seek to work in partnership with educators, practitioners, policy makers and researchers to respond to the developmental needs of children in our communities.

Symposium session times are displayed in AEDT. View the full symposium agenda on the [AEDC Research symposium webpage](#).

Registration

[Register for AEDC NSW symposium](#)

Resources and feedback

[Post participation evaluation/feedback](#)

[AEDC NSW webpage](#)

[AEDC National webpage](#)

[AEDC Family awareness videos](#)

[AEDC NSW Research symposium webpage](#)

Symposium feedback is welcomed via this email address:
aedc@det.nsw.edu.au

Our speakers

AECD NSW 2021 Research Symposium



Kay Coombs

Kay Coombs is the A/Executive Director, Educational Standards in the NSW Department of Education. Kay is responsible for leading, developing and monitoring policies that require school leaders and teachers from preschool to Year 12 to use evidence-based practice and achieve high professional standards in the delivery of curriculum, assessment and reporting. She is passionate about ensuring that all students in the NSW government schooling system have the curriculum support needed to excel as learners and assume their roles as active and informed 21st Century citizens.



Dr Amy Birungi

Amy is the Relieving Director of the Curriculum Early Years and Primary Learners unit. The unit is responsible for policies, resources and tools that support high quality preschool, early years and primary education. Amy leads a dynamic and experienced team who are committed to supporting teaching and learning across the state. The AEDC team has only recently moved into this unit and Amy is excited about opportunities to increase visibility and use of AEDC across department primary schools, preschools and beyond.



Dr Mary Taiwo

Mary is a trained special needs teacher. She completed her Master of Philosophy and doctorate degrees in inclusive and special needs education. Mary is passionate about engaging with the evidence base to inform effective teaching and learning practices for all children. Having just coordinated the AEDC 2021 data collection in NSW, Mary is looking forward to engaging with the 2021 outcomes and supporting various stakeholders as they engage with the AEDC outcomes to inform their policy and practice development.



Dr Yasmin Harman-Smith

Yasmin is the Deputy Director of the Fraser Mustard Centre and the Child Health, Development and Education group at the Telethon Kids Institute. She sits on the National Child Community Health Council and is the Deputy Chair of the board of Gowrie SA. Yasmin manages national support services to AEDC Coordinators and the Australian Government Department for Education and Training for the Australian Early Development Census program.



Dr Tess Gregory

Tess is a Senior Research Fellow at the Telethon Kids Institute and holds an adjunct senior lecturer position in the School of Public Health at the University of Adelaide. Tess's research focuses on the development, wellbeing and academic achievement of children and adolescents. Her research is primarily quantitative and utilises large, population-level datasets including the Australian Early Development Census and the South Australian Wellbeing and Engagement Collection.



Kristen Laurens, PhD

Kristen is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Queensland University of Technology, and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Psychiatry at University of New South Wales, Sydney. Her research interests are in developmental and educational psychology. Kristen uses life-course epidemiology and cognitive neuroscience methods and works with health and educational professionals to identify and develop new mental health promotion, prevention, and early intervention opportunities.



Melissa Green, PhD

Melissa is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of New South Wales (UNSW, Sydney), and Group Leader at Neuroscience Research Australia (NeuRA). Her research interests are in abnormal psychology and life-course risk for mental disorders. Melissa uses methods from epidemiology, neuroscience and epi/genetics to identify modifiable risk factors for mental disorders, and to inform early intervention and prevention programs.



Beth Flatley

Beth is an experienced leader, manager, teacher and has a background in the Creative arts sector. She currently leads the Universal Access and Participation Policy team in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and Schools Policy Directorate of the NSW Department of Education. She led the Access and Equity team in the ECE and Schools Policy Directorate from 2017 to 2020. She has presented research papers on inclusion in ECE and the work of the Disability and Inclusion program at national conferences. Beth is a qualified teacher. Prior to joining the NSW Department of Education, she worked as a high school teacher, for Create NSW and for not-for-profit arts organisations in Australia and the UK.



Steven Gibbs

Steven Gibbs is the Manager, ECE Data & Research in the ECE and Schools Policy Directorate. He leads modelling, analysis and evaluation to support early childhood policy and programs in the department and is the Principal Investigator for the early childhood test case of the National Disability Data Asset. He has worked across the department leading education research and policy for over six years, and prior to joining the department, was a lecturer, tutor and researcher in the School of Teacher Education at Charles Sturt University.



Parth Shah

Parth Shah currently works as a Senior Policy Data Analyst in the ECE Universal Access and Participation team in the Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy Directorate. He primarily works on data requests to support Brighter Beginnings and other policy reforms for children with disability and additional learning needs. Parth has a Bachelor of Chemical Engineering with Honours and a Bachelor of Finance from the University of Adelaide. Previously, he worked as a Policy Officer. He also worked in Training Services NSW co-leading the Smart and Skilled allocations process and working on analytical projects to identify emerging issues and develop recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the vocational education and training market.



Dee-Dee San Jose

Dee-Dee is Project Officer - Child and Family under the Facilitation Project, Fairfield City Council. She has teaching and disability qualifications and provides sector support and capacity building for child and family workers in the Fairfield, Liverpool and former Bankstown local government areas.



Sarina Leotta

Sarina is a Community Planning and Partnerships Officer - Child and Family at Fairfield City Council. Her position is funded by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice as it provides sector support and capacity building for child and family workers in the Fairfield, Liverpool and former Bankstown local government areas. Sarina has a background and qualification in early childhood education and adult education.



Mariana Herrera

Mariana is an Early Childhood/Primary school teacher with over twenty years' experience working in the Fairfield local government area. Mariana's experience has focused on early intervention and prevention for children and their families 0-8 years of age. She believes in supporting the children's transition to school so that they are ready to thrive.



Kristina Pukeroa

Kristina has more than 20 years of working in the Early Education sector and primary school settings of Fairfield and Liverpool local government areas. Kristina recognises, supports and actively advocates the importance of early intervention, education and support. Kristina supports the capacity of the community to enhance early development outcomes for children birth to eight years of age. She focuses on well-established evidence that the first years of a child's life are crucial for setting the foundation for life-long health and learning outcomes.



Andrea Giunta

Andrea is the Schools as Community Centres Program facilitator at Ashcroft Public School. She has been working in the early intervention and prevention field for almost twenty years and has qualifications in Arts, Teaching (Primary) and Management



Sharon Buck

Sharon is the Instructional Leader, Deputy Principal at Toukley School. Toukley Public School has an Aboriginal designated NSW Department of Education preschool attached which draws from a diverse range of postcodes across the Central Coast. Sharon has had over 30 years of experience working in various roles in the early childhood sector.



Wendy Ballard

Wendy is a passionate Early Childhood Educator and Community Facilitator with over 25 years' experience in the early childhood and community services sector. Wendy has worked in children's and adult education with NGO's, TAFE NSW and for the past 12 years as the Schools as Community Centres Facilitator at Blue Haven and Northlakes Public Schools.



Kim Moroney

Kim has a Masters of Educational Studies, Bachelor of Education in Early Childhood, Diploma in Religious Education, and Diploma in Teaching. She has a lot of teaching and leadership experiences in prior to school and school settings. Kim uses her influential voice to highlight the importance of Early Learning and to make the child visible in education policy and practice. She wrote and launched an Early Learning Policy and Procedure for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. She is particularly interested in the importance of play as a pedagogy and self-determined play, transition to school, the significance of environment and the spirituality of the child.



Jacqui Ward

Jacqui is the Early Learning Coordinator at the NSW Department of Education. She is a passionate early childhood advocate with a special interest in educational leadership and continuity of learning. Her professional experience includes owning and operating a long day care, delivering professional learning, mentoring and support for CELA and working as Manager, Educational leadership and Sector support at ACECQA.

Agenda

Session time

Session information

8:30am – 8:35 am	Welcome
8:35am – 8:40 am	Acknowledgement of Country
8:40am – 8:50 am	Engaging with the evidence base for policy and practice development
8:50am – 9:10am	Engaging with AEDC dataset to support initiatives and quality practice development
9:10am – 9:40am	The value of AEDC data for schools and how it can support school planning
9:40am – 9:50am	Break
9:50am – 10:20am	Population profiles of AEDC vulnerability provide opportunities for preventing later mental health, justice, and educational adversities
10:20am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 11:00am	Relevance and engagement with AEDC Data in early childhood education policy and practice development
11:00am – 11:30am	Facilitation Project: Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown
11:30am – 11:40am	Break
11:40am – 12:00pm	How Can we use the AEDC snapshot to start informing our preschool initiatives: Toukley Public School
12:00pm – 12:20pm	Talkers Speech Therapy Playgroup: School as Community Centre Northlakes Public School and Blue Haven Public School
12:20pm – 12:40pm	A brief snapshot of how we use the data: Catholic Schools NSW, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle
12:40pm – 12:50pm	Break
12:50pm – 1:05pm	Next steps: Opportunities for practice development and cross agency collaboration
1:05pm – 1:10pm	Conclusion and announcements

Considerable work and preparation has gone into the AEDC 2021 Research Symposium. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to the success of today's Symposium.

Session 1

Welcome

8:30am – 9:10 am

- Welcome
- Acknowledgement of Country
- Opening address
- **Engaging with AEDC dataset to support initiatives and quality practice development**

This session provides an overview of some of the NSW Department of Education policies, practice and initiatives that AEDC data informs. It will also highlight initiatives that AEDC NSW is implementing following a successful data collection in Term 2 2021.

- **Using the evidence base for policy and practice development**

This session provides an overview of the relevance of AEDC data set. It highlights the value of the data in informing resource allocation, policy and practice development.

- **Relevance of a research symposium on AEDC dataset**

This short overview of the day highlights the purpose of the AEDC NSW research symposium and the relevance of engaging with the evidence base to support engagement with AEDC data and resources.

Speakers



Kay Coombs

Executive Director, Educational Standards



Dr Amy Birungi

Director, Curriculum Early Years and Primary Learners



Dr Mary Taiwo

NSW AEDC State Coordinator

Session 2

AEDC value of data: An overview

9:10 am – 9:40 am

This session will provide an overview of the research that explores how children's development measured by the AEDC at school entry predicts their academic achievement and social and emotional wellbeing during their schooling lives. Resources and tips for schools to utilise the AEDC data in their curriculum and quality improvement planning will be shared.

Speakers



Dr Yasmin Harman-Smith

Deputy Director, Child Health, Development and Education (inclusive of the Fraser Mustard Centre) - Telethon Kids Institute



Dr Tess Gregory

Senior Research Fellow, Child Health, Development and Education (inclusive of the Fraser Mustard Centre)

Session 3

Population profiles of AEDC vulnerability provide opportunities for preventing later mental health, justice, and educational adversities

9:50 am – 10:20 am

This session introduces the NSW Child Development Study, which is following the development of 91,635 children from birth to adulthood using multi-agency record linkage of administrative and survey data. Research findings will be presented that describe how different patterns of vulnerability on the AEDC can identify groups of children who might benefit from additional support at school and/or from other government agencies to prevent later mental ill health, justice contacts, and poor educational achievement and engagement.

Speakers



Kristen Laurens, PhD

ARC Future Fellow, and Visiting Adjunct Associate Professor School of Psychiatry University of New South Wales



Melissa Green, PhD

School of Psychiatry University of New South Wales, Sydney Neuroscience Research Australia Randwick

Session 4

Relevance and engagement with AEDC Data in early childhood education policy and practice development

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Early Childhood Directorate, NSW Department of Education will be highlighting how they have engaged with AEDC data and some of the projects, programs and key policy decisions that the AEDC data has informed. The team will also outline how services can engage with the data at the community level to support the engagement with the community they serve.

Speakers



Beth Flatley

Manager, ECE Universal Access and Participation in Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy



Steven Gibbs

Manager, ECE Data & Research in the Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy Directorate.



Parth Shah

Senior Data Analyst, ECE Universal Access and Participation in Early Childhood Education and Schools Policy

Session 5

Facilitation Project: Fairfield, Liverpool, Bankstown

11:00 am – 11:30 am

This session provides an overview of how AEDC data can be used alongside other datasets to inform various initiatives at the community level. Bankstown, Fairfield and Liverpool local councils have developed and implemented various early childhood development initiatives that addressed areas of vulnerabilities as reported in their community level AEDC data outcomes. The session will also highlight some of the gains and challenges of working across agencies and how their initiatives has led to positive outcomes for families and children in these communities.

Speakers



Dee-Dee San Jose

Fairfield City Council, Project Officer



Sarina Leotta

Fairfield City Council, Community Planning and Partnership Officer – Child and Family



Kristina Pukeroa

School as Community Centre Facilitator at Fairfield Public School



Mariana Herrera

Early Childhood/ Primary School Teacher



Andrea Giunta

School as Community Centre Facilitator at Ashcroft Public School

Session 6

Amplifying practice

11:40 am – 12:40 pm

How can we use the AEDC snapshots to start informing our preschool initiatives: Toukley Public School

This session will look at the initial snapshot data that our school has received and discuss ways that we can leverage this data to inform initiatives we put in place in our preschool context that will have an impact on children transitioning in our school.

Talkers Speech Therapy Playgroup: Northlakes Public School and Blue Haven Public School

This group was developed in direct response to the AEDC 2018 data which showed an increase in children developmentally at risk or vulnerable in language and cognitive skills domain, as well as communication skills. This program is a partnership between SaCC with several organisations. It was developed after consultation with families whose children attend Blue Haven and Northlakes SaCCs. The partnership highlights the aim and purpose of the AEDC in enabling a creative community response to the data.

A brief snapshot of how we use the data: Catholic Schools NSW, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

This session will provide a brief snapshot of how AEDC data has been used in previous years in schools of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle with a particular focus on Early Learning philosophy, pedagogy and practice. Using the preliminary report from one school as an example, Kim will unpack how the AEDC data will support and enhance 'Transition to school' plans and practices.

Speakers



Sharon Buck

Deputy Principal, Instructional Leader, Toukley Public School.



Wendy Ballard

School as Community Centre Northlakes Public School & Blue Haven Public School



Kim Moroney

Education Officer (Early Learning) The Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

Session 7

Next steps: Opportunities for practice development and cross agency collaboration

12:50pm – 1:05pm

This session provides an overview of the symposium and highlights some of the key lessons drawn from presenters and future proposed actions for AEDC in NSW.

Speakers



Jacqui Ward

Early Learning Coordinator, Early Learning, Curriculum Early years and Primary Learners