

# Professional Development

Supporting professionals in their work with children and families



Centre for Community Child Health

## Early Years Seminar Series: Research to Policy to Practice

Investing in Early Childhood – the future of early childhood education and care in Australia

**Date:** Friday, 25 July 2014, 9.00am–3.00pm (registration from 8.30am)

**Venue:** Ella Latham Theatre, The Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville.

You are invited to attend the **Investing in Early Childhood: the future of early childhood education and care in Australia** seminar at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

At this seminar, we will proudly welcome the Productivity Commissioner, Wendy Craik, to present the draft findings of the Productivity Commission inquiry into future options for childcare and early childhood learning.

The early years of a child's life are crucial to their future wellbeing and to the prosperity of our whole nation. The Productivity Commission has recognised the importance of these early years and has focussed its inquiry on developing a system that supports parents' workforce participation and addresses children's learning and development needs.

At the seminar, a range of Early Childhood bodies will respond to the Commission's findings. Opportunities and risks coming from the Productivity Commission's findings will be identified and discussed. Consideration will be given to key messages for further engagement with the Commission.

**Places are limited — register early using the attached form to avoid disappointment!**

### Keynote speakers

#### Dr Wendy Craik AM

Dr Craik was appointed a Commissioner with the Productivity Commission in June 2009 and is currently the presiding Commissioner on the inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning. She has considerable expertise in natural resource management and environmental issues and public policy more generally. Dr Craik has held many senior positions including Chief Executive for the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC), President of the National Competition Council (NCC), Chair of the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA), Executive Director of National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and Executive Officer of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA). She has been a director of a number of boards. She is currently a Board member of Dairy Australia, Chair of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, Deputy Chancellor at the University of South Australia and Chair of the NSW Marine Estate Management Authority.

Dr Craik was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia in 2007 for service to the natural resource sector of the economy, particularly in the areas of fisheries, marine ecology and management of water reform, and for contributions to policies affecting rural and regional Australia.

### Seminar series

Delivered by The Royal Children's Hospital Centre for Community Child Health, the Early Years Seminar Series: Research to Policy to Practice supports early years professionals in their work with communities to improve the health and wellbeing of children and their families. Subscribe to Professional Development News to find out more: [www.rch.org.au/ccch/pd\\_news](http://www.rch.org.au/ccch/pd_news)

Program partner:



Seminar Series supported by:



# Professional Development

Supporting professionals in their work with children and families



Centre for Community Child Health

## Program: Early Years Seminar Series: Research to Policy to Practice

Investing in Early Childhood – the future of early childhood education and care in Australia

**Date:** Friday, 25 July 2014, 9.00am–3.00pm (registration from 8.30am)

**Venue:** Ella Latham Theatre, The Royal Children's Hospital, Parkville.

9.00 – 9.15	Introduction and Welcome <b>Sue West, Associate Director, Centre for Community Child Health</b>
9.15 – 9.30	Why change? Challenging existing models of ECEC in Australia <b>Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health</b>
9.30 – 10.15	What do Australians think about the future of ECEC in Australia? Findings of the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning <b>Dr Wendy Craik AM, Presiding Commissioner on the Inquiry into Childcare and Early Childhood Learning</b>
10.15 – 10.30	Questions to the Commissioner <b>Sue West, Associate Director, Centre for Community Child Health</b>
10.30	<i>Morning Tea</i>
11.00 – 12.45	<b>Panel discussion</b>  The future of ECEC in Australia: drawing opportunities and risks to formulate key messages for a further response to the Productivity Commission as a sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering access, equity and flexible models <b>Samantha Page, CEO Early Childhood Australia</b></li> <li>The political context – where do Commonwealth and State policy and funding agendas intersect? <b>Shane Lucas, CEO, Early Learning Association Australia</b></li> <li>A provider's perspective <b>John Cherry, Advocacy Manager, Goodstart Early Learning</b></li> <li>Engaging vulnerable children <b>Deb Tsorbaris, CEO, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare</b></li> <li>Service systems engaging families and children <b>Professor Frank Oberklaid, Director, Centre for Community Child Health</b></li> <li>Working within the policy context: leveraging the model to deliver equity and quality <b>Janet Williams Smith, General Manager, Service Development, Early Childhood Management Services</b></li> </ul>
12.45 – 1.30	<i>Lunch</i>
1.30 – 2.00	Funding the future of ECEC in Australia: An alternative funding model <b>Professor Deborah Brennan, Social Policy Research Centre</b>
2.00 – 2.30	Putting a Value on Early Childhood Education and Care in Australia <b>James van Smeerdijk, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers</b>
2.30 – 3.00	Final thoughts for future engagement with the Productivity Commission <b>Sue West, Associate Director, Centre for Community Child Health</b>

Program partner:

Seminar Series supported by:

