



THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2019
Novotel on Collins Street, Melbourne





Introducing our Key Note Speakers:



JACKIE FRENCH AM

Australian Author, Historian, Ecologist, Honorary Wombat
Ambassador, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature
Senior Australian of the Year, 2015
Australian Children's Laureate 2014-15

[Read more about Jackie here](#)



PROFESSOR EMERITUS DOROTHY SCOTT OAM

Honorary Professorial Fellow, University
of Melbourne.

Former Foundation Chair in Child
Protection and Director of the Australian
Centre for Child Protection, University at
the University of South Australia.



GABRIEL EICHSTELLER

Studied social pedagogy, social work
and sociology of childhood in Germany,
Denmark, and the UK.

International practice experience in play
work, youth work, children's participation
and advocacy.

www.thempra.org.uk

Playgroup makes a difference

Living well in our community

Join us as we explore the many and varied ways that playgroup supports, develops, and enhances our well-being. Topics include intergenerational relationships, nature, self-care, respectful relationships, literacy, a sense of place and of course, play!

[Register Here!](#)

PLAY

There are so many facets to play. It is a part of human life, throughout life. Play is a part of who we are, how we learn and how we function. It is trial and error, it is imagining and creating.

Through play we practice, and we discover.

Play is strongly linked to development. It is simple enough for newborns as they make sense of the world, and it is complex enough to keep us learning, trying new things and pondering forever on.

“Play is quite easy to know and get and yet it is the most personal and complicated thing at the same time which is so wonderful about play.”
- Tine Bech

RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS

Sharing stories and creating bonds is a vital part of human nature. How we connect and interact contributes to our well-being. Conversing and sharing allows humans to express themselves and share experiences. This can be done through a variety of mediums and spans demographics, age, race, religion, and culture.

Relationships play a pivotal role in our lives. They have an impact on mental health and sense of identity. Music, reading, writing, art and language allow us to connect and share and communicate. They also allow us to learn and form new ideas. Most profoundly, the connections we have, provide support.

This is critical during the early years.

SPACE

A sense of place and belonging is at the core of our well-being.

A comfortable space to learn and play is vital for a child. A comfortable and safe space is especially important for a child with a learning difficulty or disability. A safe space is also critical for parent and carer.

Space and time entwine and overlap. How and where we spend our time influences our learning, our decision-making and our creative processes. During the conference we will explore what spaces foster creativity and learning. We will think more deeply about what kind of spaces promote good physical and mental health.

FACILITATOR WELL-BEING

Providing practical and sensitive support is the cornerstone of community. This begins with awareness and consideration for others.

The ways that we care for our playgroup community impacts how the early years function. Playgroup facilitators need to foster their own sense of well-being to carry out their role successfully.

[Register Here!](#)