



Early Childhood Educators' Well-being Project (ECEWP)

ISSUE 3 – DECEMBER 2019

Introduction

Welcome to the third ECEWP newsletter. Our research uses a holistic approach to examine the psychological and physiological aspects of early childhood educators' well-being within the context of work environment. Thank you for your interest in and support for our work. We wish you and your loved ones a happy and safe holiday season and look forward to furthering our work together in the coming year.

Presenting our research

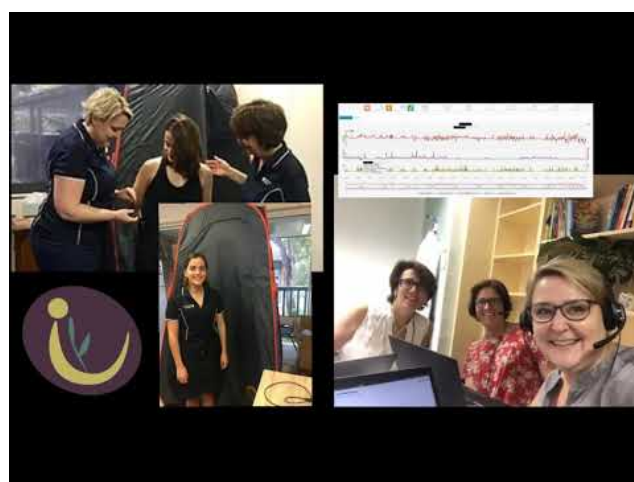
Our research protocol and initial findings have now been presented at several national and international conferences and in peer reviewed and industry publications. Three podcasts about the project were released to a national audience via [The Early Education Show](#), and a stakeholder roundtable event was held in Sydney. We've also presented our research at a regional level. For example, in September Tamara Cumming spoke to educators from Bathurst, Blayney and Oberon in the NSW Central West at an event hosted by the Bathurst Child and Family Network (BCFN). Tamara spoke about why educator well-being matters, and presented research both from ECEWP and the broader research literature.



Over 60 people attended the BCFN presentation on why educator well-being matters

ECEWP explainer video

We've created an explainer video to highlight the work ECEWP is doing to improve educators' well-being in the early childhood education and care sector in Australia. (Click on the image below or the link to watch the video: <https://youtu.be/QqfNX7f4XnQ>)



ECEWP explainer video

CLASS training

In November, Sandie Wong and Salima Yeung attended training on The Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) Infant and Toddler observation tools. These tools help researchers measure the quality of the classroom environment. If they pass their tests(!), Sandie and Salima will be part of only a small group of researchers in Australia qualified to use the CLASS-Infant for research purposes. Salima will be using CLASS-Infant in her PhD research study to look at the impact of educators' well-being on their interactions with infants. It's ground-breaking research – on an important topic. We'll feature Salima's work in future editions of the newsletter. *(And we'll let you know if we passed our tests!)*

ECEWP participant demographics n=73

AGE
75% 20 to 40 years
25% late-40s to early-60s

GENDER
93% female

WORK PATTERN
86% permanent full-time
Average 37 hrs per wk
92% do at least some
unpaid overtime

SERVICES
All work in
long day care services
53% of these services
rated 'Exceeding'

LOCATIONS
Participants work in
services located in
4 states and 1 territory

**TRAVEL TIME
TO WORK**
30% <30 minutes
16% >2 hours

LANGUAGE
33% speak English &
another language

POSITION
62% educators
38% directors

QUALIFICATION
75% certificate/diploma
23% bachelor/masters
19% currently studying
an EC qualification

EXPERIENCE
6% <1 year
66% 3-15 years
14% >20 years

CHILDREN
Participants work across a
range of ages
36% work with mixed-age
groups

SPECIAL NEEDS
70% work with children
with special needs

UNION
20% union
members

Data analysis

In early October, the ECEWP team met in Bathurst to plan and begin final analysis of our multidisciplinary data set. We are using physiological, psychological, survey and interview data to assess the well-being of 73 educators working in Australian early childhood services located in four states and one territory, along with senior managers from eight large early childhood organisations.



L to R: Kim, Tamara, Helen and Sandie

During the meeting, we also planned for a number of academic and practitioner-related publications to discuss findings. In future, we intend to use our findings, plus understandings from the literature, to design the next phase of research. In particular, we hope to secure funding to work alongside the early childhood sector on appropriate interventions.

Learn more

Read our new article – [A holistic look at wellbeing](#) – in Early Childhood Australia's *Every Child* magazine.

Hear about our latest work at the [AJEC Research Symposium](#) at Macquarie University in February 2020. We will be talking about why a child's right to education not only relies on a competent and skilled workforce, but also one in which educators are well.

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Thank you: 449 Facebook followers!

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