



# Early Childhood Educators' Well-being Project (ECEWP)

ISSUE 4 – JULY 2020

### Introduction

In the six months since our last newsletter, the early childhood (EC) sector – and global community – have been facing very difficult circumstances. In Australia, our sector has experienced the impacts of drought, bushfire, floods and coronavirus. There has been little time to adjust, while at the same time we have also needed to steer our services, families and children through these challenging times. There is still much to play out, however we know that educators' well-being is more crucial than ever.

In April, along with many other EC organisations and peak bodies, we lobbied the government to increase support for the sector ([view our letter](#)). We wrote to State, Federal and Shadow Ministers responsible for early childhood, urging them to provide support for educators. We also shared a template on Facebook for others to use which reached almost 3,300 people and received a positive response from the EC industry and educators.

In addition, our co-investigator Helen Logan recently received funding from Charles Sturt University to conduct case studies examining organisational leadership of educators' well-being during the COVID-19 crisis. We are also seeking additional funding to research the impact of COVID-19 on educators and services.

### EC CRISIS RESOURCES

Our Facebook page contains a current list of [early childhood-specific resources](#) which we hope you find helpful.



### Latest publications



The *International Journal of Early Childhood* has published our article investigating the work-related well-being of EC educators from the perspectives of key stakeholders in Australian organisations ([read our article in full](#)).



Our research into safety in EC workplaces appeared in *Bedrock*, the magazine of the Independent Education Union of Australia. Our examination of hidden hazardous workplaces revealed some startling findings ([read our article](#)).



Our paper challenging the invisibility of EC educators' well-being opens a special issue of the *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood* journal. The issue explores inconvenient truths concerning the EC workforce across the world ([read our abstract](#)).

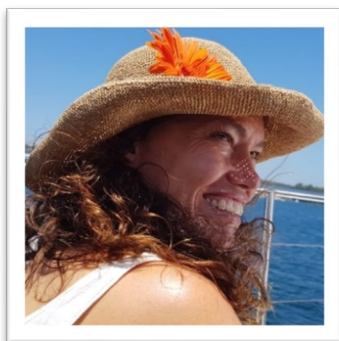
### Children's right to a well workforce

In February, Sandie Wong, Helen Logan and Tamara Cumming presented a roundtable on children's right to a skilled, competent and well workforce, at the 2020 AJEC Research Symposium held in Sydney.

## Meet our research team

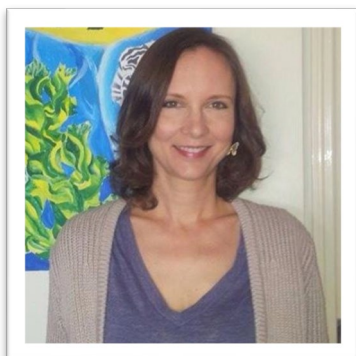
In previous issues we introduced ECEWP chief investigator Associate Professor Sandie Wong, co-investigators Dr Tamara Cumming and Dr Helen Logan, along with PhD candidate Salima Yeung, research assistant Natalie Gorgioski and project officer Kim Woodland.

We would like to introduce you to three more valued members of our team:



**Professor Rebecca Bull** (Macquarie University) is interested in factors that impact on educator–child interactions and child development and learning. This

includes educator training, self-efficacy and educator psychological and physiological well-being.



**Dr Laura McFarland** is a senior lecturer in early childhood studies at Charles Sturt University. She is interested in researching whole service approaches to supporting

mental health in early childhood education services.



**Dr Alex (Sandy) MacQuarrie** is based at Griffith University on the Gold Coast. Sandy is a career paramedic who has translated his research into the health and

wellness of paramedics to early childhood educators. With a focus on using biometric monitoring to measure and understand health status, Sandy is pleased to be able to assist the ECEWP team.

## CLASS training update

We now have three researchers on our team qualified to use the Classroom Assessment Scoring System® (CLASS) Infant and Toddler observation tools. These tools help researchers measure the quality of the classroom environment. Sandie Wong, Salima Yeung and Rebecca Bull are part of only a small group of researchers in Australia qualified to use the CLASS-Infant for research purposes.

## Other news



*ECEWP researchers met in March to prepare for the next stage of research, resulting in a 12-month plan to progress our research into supporting educators and organisations to assess and plan for healthy workplaces. We will keep you updated!*



*ECEWP researchers have been meeting with potential international collaborators to discuss how our research into early childhood educators' well-being could be extended to other countries.*

Congratulations to PhD candidate Salima Yeung on the birth of her baby boy Morgan! (Salima's research explores the relationship between early childhood educators' well-being and the quality of educator–infant interactions.)

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