



CEIEC + YWCA + WomenSpeak = New Childcare Policies

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On May 31st & June 1st, the CEIEC, YWCA Australia and the WomenSpeak Network hosted a policy conference. The CEIEC's Merlyne Cruz reports.

The conference - *Changing Childcare: Identifying a Childcare Research and Advocacy Platform for the WomenSpeak Network* - was held at The University of Melbourne's Plaza Conference Centre. Participants from various early childhood sectors proposed policy recommendations for WomenSpeak to present to the Office for Women and other relevant government departments.

Day 1 examined childcare issues in Indigenous communities and in culturally and linguistically diverse communities; and childcare issues for children with a disability.

On Day 2, participants discussed relationships between profit and not-for-profit childcare, between affordable childcare and fair and just employment, and between centres, parents and employers as potential holders of childcare subsidies.

Speakers included the CEIEC's Jane Page and Karina Davis, Carolyn Atkins (Acting CEO, Victorian Council of Social Service), Marie Coleman (Founding Secretary, National Foundation for Australian Women;

Michael Gourlay (CEO, Association for Children with Disability), Catharine Hydon (Brotherhood of St Lawrence), Caroline Lambert (National Policy and Campaigns Director, YWCA Australia), Julian Pocock (Coordinator, Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) and Barbara Romeril (Executive Director, Community Childcare Association).

WomenSpeak is a national network of 36 women's organizations. It is funded by the Australian Government to provide policy advice on issues affecting women in Australia. Childcare is one of its three priority issues in 2006-2007.

For more information:
www.ywca.org.au/projects/women_speak/index



Formulating proposals on Day 1



CEIEC hosts Study Day for PLAN Australia

In late May, a group of early childhood policy-makers from India, Bangladesh, East Timor and Indonesia came to a study day at the CEIEC as part of a tour arranged by PLAN Australia). The CEIEC's **Merlyne Cruz** reports.

The CEIEC study day had two aims. First, to raise the visitors' awareness about the importance of early childhood care; second, to introduce them to innovations in the area, including parent participation in services, involving children from marginalized groups and lobbying governments about early childhood care and education.

The day included a workshop by CEIEC Director, A/Prof. Glenda MacNaughton that examined some recent CEIEC research into including children's voices in policy and practice; a seminar by the CEIEC's Ms Jane Page on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and presentations by CEIEC postgraduate students Ms. Sumalee Kumchaiskul, Ms. Prassana Srinivasan and Ms. Merlyne Cruz.



The CEIEC's Jane Page (extreme right) greets the delegates.

PLAN Australia:
www.plan.org.au

The CEIEC recently held a Morning Tea, which raised \$300 for the victims of the earthquake in Yogyakarta, central Java in Indonesia.

In February 2006, the CEIEC's

Glenda MacNaughton and Kylie Smith visited the Institute for Women's and Children's Development in Yogyakarta - the epicenter of the subsequent earthquake. (See Centre News 5.1)

Like many people, we waited anxiously for news that they were safe and well ... and were relieved when they contacted us to say that they were.

CEIEC hosts researchers from Singapore's National Institute of Education

In early July, the CEIEC welcomed academics from the Humanities and Social Studies Education (HSSE) group at Singapore's National Institute of Education (NIE). The CEIEC's **Merlyne Cruz** reports.

The group consisted of A/Prof. Christine Kim-Eng Lee (Head, HSSE; Head, Curriculum and Teaching Unit), Ms. Chee Min Fui and Asst. Prof. Rahil Ismail. They are interested in ethnic relations and social cohesion in Singapore's schools and wanted to learn more about the CEIEC's research around teachers' and preschool children's constructions of cultural and racial diversity.

The group spent the first day of their visit discussing their work with the CEIEC's Prof. Glenda MacNaughton, Dr Kylie Smith and Dr. Karina Davis; and on their second day, they attended presentations by four CEIEC postgraduate students.

On their final two days, the group visited a long daycare centre, a kindergarten, a primary school and a secondary school.

The NIE is part of Nanyang Technological University. It is the only teacher training institute in Singapore and provides teacher education at all levels, from initial teacher training (including pre-school and kindergarten) through Diploma and Degree programs to Masters and PhDs.



Making a difference internationally!



CONGRATULATIONS, GLENDA!

CEIEC Director Glenda MacNaughton has been made a Professor in the University of Melbourne's recent professorial promotion round.

Glenda said. 'I hope that this will help support the growth and profile of the CEIEC and its work locally and internationally.'

CEIEC Director Prof. Glenda MacNaughton presented aspects of the CEIEC's work at an extensive series of international events recently.

In April, she gave a public lecture ('Starting with the child in mind: curriculum and children's rights') at the Singapore Institute of Management. In May, Glenda was a keynote speaker at an international conference, 'Contesting early childhood' at the Institute of Education in London. The conference formally launched the Routledge book series, 'Contesting early childhood', which includes Glenda's book, *Doing Foucault in Early Childhood Studies*.

In early June, Glenda ran a seminar ('Poststructuralist perspectives on children's identities') for researchers at Cardiff University, conducted a Masterclass ('Creating gender-fair and safe early childhood worlds: how can children help?') at Queen's University, Belfast; and gave a keynote address ('Constructing gender fairness with young children') to an international conference 'Diversity & Inclusion in the Early Years' in Belfast.

In Ireland, Glenda ran a seminar ('Researching with young children: ethical issues and challenges in qualitative research') at the Children's Research Centre, Trinity



Glenda at Pavee Point

Trinity College, Dublin. She then gave a keynote address ('Working in partnership: experiences and critical reflection') to a National Forum on Training and Professional Development at Dublin's Pavee Point, titled 'Planning for Diversity, Equality and Inclusion in Early Childhood'.



Glenda at Pavee Point with Brian Power (Head, Early Years Education Policy, Department of Education) and Collette Murray (Pavee Point).

At Pavee Point, Glenda discussed her work with staff at the centre for Travellers (Romanies) in Ireland.

In late June, Glenda gave a keynote address ('Creating curriculum policies and practices with young children: gender challenges and possibilities.') to an International Conference on 'Learning processes in early childhood: observation, documentation, evaluation') at Brixen (Bressanone), Italy, held jointly by The Free University of Bozen-Lozano and Deutsche Telekom Stiftung.

Finally - and closer to home - Glenda ran a one-day conference and two workshops in South Australia as part of her continuing involvement with South Australia's Education Department's 'Learning to Learn' program for pre-school and primary teachers.



Children as citizens in the City of Port Phillip

The CEIEC is running an action research project into children and citizenship for the City of Port Phillip in Melbourne. The CEIEC's Kylie Smith reports.

The project - *Respecting children as citizens in local government: participation in policies and services* - develops the City of Port Phillip's Municipal Early Years Plan 2005 - 2008, which envisions a city, 'where childhood is honoured and all children are cherished and supported as active citizens with a voice of their own, secure in their identity and culture'.

A public meeting on Tuesday 4th July launched the project, in which an initial group of 20 early childhood staff from the City of Port Phillip and from external providers will learn how to consult children ethically about what they want in their lives and how to weave the outcomes into practice.

The City of Port Phillip project is the latest in the CEIEC's growing portfolio of citizenship projects. In

these projects, the CEIEC has assisted state and local governments in Australia to recognize young children as citizens and include them in decision-making.

Each project is custom-built to suit the specific circumstances, of course, but a consistent element has been introducing relevant staff to the simple fact that young children have ideas and opinions about a diverse range of topics - from child care hours to road closures - and can express them lucidly in the right conditions.

Interest is growing around the world in young children as citizens. This interest draws on new models of the child as an active decision-maker and on international 'standard-setting' instruments such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The current edition of the CEIEC's online journal (*International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood*) examines some of these foundations.

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CEIEC hosts Chinese Welfare Institute executives

In early June, the CEIEC was host to a delegation of executives from the Chinese Welfare Institute. The CEIEC's Merlyne Cruz reports.

The delegation consisted of Ms Zhou Wei (CWI Deputy Secretary General), Mr. Shu Min (Director, CWI International Peace Maternity and Child Health Hospital), Mr. Hong Niuyi (Deputy Director, Shanghai Cultural Development Foundation) and Mr. Chen Wen (Assistant Director, Soong Ching Ling Kindergarten).

Ms. Xu Guanju (Chair, Australia Soong Ching Ling Foundation) accompanied the delegation.



(L to R) Mr. Hong Niuyi, Ms Zhou Wei and CEIEC's Ms Jane Page.

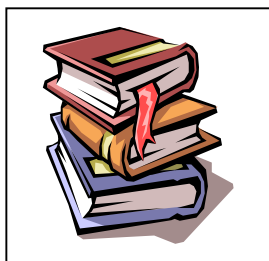
The CEIEC has long links with the CWI. CEIEC staff spoke at a CWI-sponsored international early childhood conference in 2005; CWI staff have visited the CEIEC; and CWI students have attended customized CEIEC training.

<http://english.cwi.org.cn/index.htm>





Sue is researching 'Indigenous self-determination and early childhood education and care in Victoria', using postcolonial theory to analyse her data.



Support a new journal
Discourse, Power, Resistance are developing a proposal for an international journal and calling for abstracts by the end of July. For information email:
michael.watts@uea.ac.uk

Research with a difference to make a difference

Each edition of *Centre News* introduces the work of one of the CEIEC's postgraduate students. This edition's research student is **Sue Lopez Atkinson**.

Sue Lopez Atkinson is a Yorta Yorta woman, whose traditional homelands are in North East Victoria. Sue was born and raised in Melbourne and believes that she was the first Indigenous Victorian to graduate as a kindergarten teacher.

Sue is currently completing her PhD at the University of Melbourne. She is researching 'Indigenous self-determination and early childhood education and care in Victoria'. She is using postcolonial theory to analyse her research data - primarily the voices of the Indigenous early childhood

Community in Melbourne, including Elders, parents, children and Indigenous early childhood professionals.

Sue has taught Indigenous education and Indigenous studies in the TAFE and Higher Education sectors for over 20 years. She started her teaching career when was working as a kindergarten teacher and expecting her daughter Bianca. Prahan College of TAFE (now part of Swinburne University of Technology) invited her to teach in their Aboriginal Child Care Course.

During her data analysis Sue has discovered the distracting delights of domestic duties (!), but she aims to complete her thesis by July 2007. In the future she hopes to publish her research as a book for early childhood practitioners.

NEW CEIEC PUBLICATIONS

The International Journal of Equity and Innovation in Early Childhood is the CEIEC's international online journal. It is available as one of the benefits of CEIEC membership.

The current edition is Volume 4, Edition 1. Its contents are:

Editorial

Deevia Bhana

'Rights: Researching children in contemporary South Africa.'

Anne Houghton

'A shift in thinking in an early childhood practice.'

Janice Kroeger

'"Ism" moments & children becoming.'

Hyacinth Kulemeka

'Children in deprived environments and policy mismatches: the case of child development in Malawi.'

Kym MacFarlane & Karen Noble

'Fractured Identities: Exploring engagement and disengagement in the process of lifelong learning.'

Alan White & Margaret Coady

'Re-visioning early childhood through a child rights lens: globally and in context.'

Karen E. Wohlwend

'"I am not an American girl": resisting discourses of agency, innocence and patriotism.'

Jane Page

'Review of Helen Penn (2005) *Understanding early childhood: issues and controversies*.'





CONFERENCE CALL 5/2

"CULTURES, CHALLENGES AND CHANGE IN TROUBLING TIMES"

Conference Call appears in each edition of *Centre News*.

Conference Call previews the forthcoming CEIEC annual conference. It introduces featured speakers, highlights leading sessions and announces events associated with the conference.

More up-to-date information and news about the conference is on the conference website (the address is at the bottom of this page).

The website offers backgrounds of keynote speakers and news about the sessions.

You can make your own *Conference Call*. E.g.

- o contact people with shared interests;
- o announce a Special Interest Group;
- o invite collaboration.

To make your 'Conference Call', contact Patrick Hughes:
patrickh@deakin.edu.au

The CEIEC will run its sixth annual conference between Thursday 16 and Saturday 18 November 2006 in Melbourne. The conference title is 'Cultures, challenges & change in troubling times: Honoring the Child, Honoring Equity 6'.

Proposals for papers are coming in and they show the characteristic CEIEC diversity of

origins, authors and topics.

There's still time to submit a proposal. Remember: if you'd like some advice or practical help with writing and submitting a proposal, several people are ready to help you. See the conference website for more information about proposals.

The next 'Conference Call' will carry the provisional program.

SOME MAJOR SPEAKERS AT THE 2006 CONFERENCE

Dr. Radhika Viruru (India/USA)

Keynote: 'Postcolonial theories of/to resistance: visions of freedom from and for young children.'

Seminar: 'Decolonizing freedom: strategies of reconceptualization.'

Radhika Viruru is a Clinical Associate Professor in Early Childhood Education at Texas A & M University, USA. Her research interests include the application of postcolonial theory to international early childhood education.

Prof. Peter Moss (UK)

Peter Moss is Professor of Early Childhood Provision and Executive Head of the Thomas Coram Research Unit at the Institute of Education, London. His research interests include services for children and early childhood provision and policy. He is the sole or co-author of numerous books and reports in the area.

Ms Sri Marpinjun (Indonesia)

Keynote: 'From Javanese to Indonesia: a model of NGOs' role in cultural transformation in Indonesia.'

Sri Marpinjun is Executive Director of Indonesia's Institute for Women and Children's Studies and Development, which she helped to establish. She is assessing the effectiveness of community-based approaches to early childhood education in Indonesia.

Mr. Bill Parker (Australia)

Keynote: 'Children's voices affecting decision-making.'

Seminar: 'Leading from within.'

Bill Parker is District Director, Schools & Children's Services for the Eyre District of South Australia. He has an extensive background in teaching and leading in schools and was a Superintendent of Schools & Children's Services.

The CEIEC Conference website is:
www.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/eesc/ceiec/events/conferences/current/CEIECAnnualConf/index.html

