



**July 2016 - June 2017**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Early Childhood Intervention Australia  
(Inc)**



## Our mission

To lead and strengthen the ECI sector through influencing national policy and promoting contemporary best practice to ensure that practitioners and service providers are able to best support young children with disability and /or developmental delay and their families.

## Our vision

To be the leading authority in Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) in Australia

## Our History

Early Childhood Intervention Australia [ECIA] was formed in 1994 after state and territory early childhood intervention associations agreed to form a national association. It was known at this time as the Australian Early Intervention Association [AEIA]. Two members from each state or territory chapter were nominated to sit on the first National Council.

The change of name – from Australian Early Intervention Association to Early Childhood Intervention Australia – occurred in 1997. The national organisation adopted the new name in the first instance, with state and territory chapters following suit over a period of time.

This was prompted by the increasing use of the term ‘early intervention’ to apply to a wide range of services for different age groups and concerns. The adoption of the term ‘early childhood intervention’ was intended to indicate that ECIA represented intervention services provided during the early years.

In 2016 ECIA determined it would restructure and merge all chapters and the national organisation into a single entity company limited by guarantee. This was in response to the identified need to move to a stronger national organisation in light of developments in the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) sector and in particular the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The restructuring of ECIA is an important step in the organisations history and we look forward to an exciting future.

*Young children with disability and developmental delay will fully participate in family and community life in Australia.*

# Contents

Our mission .....	1
Our vision .....	1
Our History .....	1
ABOUT US .....	3
OUR PEOPLE .....	3
PRESIDENTS REPORT .....	4
ECIA ACTIVITIES .....	6
Best Practice Project .....	6
SA NDIA Project .....	7
TREASURER'S REPORT .....	9
AUDITOR'S REPORT .....	10
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – THE RESTRUCTURE OF ECIA .....	12



## ABOUT US

Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) is the peak national organisation promoting the interests of young children with disability / developmental delays and their families.

ECIA provides a national focus and forum for Early Childhood Intervention, promoting the public profile of Early Childhood Intervention, facilitating effective liaison and collaboration in the community and with other peak and government bodies, and fostering quality information and service provision.

Services include organisation of seminars and workshops for professionals and families, and a national conference every two years, as well as advocacy activities such as development of submissions to government.

The majority of members of ECIA are early childhood intervention (ECI) professionals. These include small community organisations, large disability and children's services agencies and various government departments, reflecting the diverse ways in which services to young children and their families are provided nationally. Members are based in urban, rural and regional centres throughout the country.

## OUR PEOPLE

### National Council members

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Trish Hanna	President	
Neal Vickers	Vice President	
Linda Williams	Secretary	
Denise Luscombe	Treasurer	
Rani Dibley	Councillor (NSW/ACT)	
Katie Bartholomaeus	Councillor (QLD)	
Cathy Olsen	Councillor (SA)	
Paula Buttigieg	Councillor (WA/NT)	
Debra Goldfinch	Councillor (VIC/TAS)	
Anoo Bhojti	Councillor (VIC/TAS)	

### Employees

Name	Position	Dates acted (if not for whole year)
Kayleen Lenzo	Manager Business & Support Services	
Dr John Toussaint	Snr Project Manager	
Tracey Neldner	Project Manager	

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Trish Hanna  
National President



I am very honoured to be reporting as ECIA national president for the financial year 2016/17.

Our AGM for the prior year was held in January this year, and marked a significant change in direction for our organisation. On reflecting on the activities of the national council over the year, July 16 to June 17, it is quite amazing that we have achieved so much - not without some challenges and indeed significant contributions from many across Australia.

In September 2016, ECIA (Vic) hosted the bi annual national ECIA conference in Melbourne. The conference was well attended and created a platform for discussion about the impact of the NDIS on young children with developmental delay and disability across Australia. It was at this conference that the national council, represented by Denise Luscombe, was able to launch the news that ECIA would be co-hosting an international conference in Sydney in 2019 with the International Society of Early Intervention (ISEI) at the Sydney International Convention Centre. This signified recognition of the contribution that ECIA can make to early childhood intervention both within and outside Australia.

NSW/ACT chapter continued to provide in kind support to the national organisation with Margie O'Tarpey acting as National Chief Executive until November 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to thank ECIA NSW/ACT Board, Margie O'Tarpey and her team, for all their efforts with supporting the development of the National ECIA profile across Australia. In particular, Margie's efforts in connecting with key stakeholders in each state and territory have been very useful. The NSW/ACT support of this work came at a very important time for ECIA and the financial commitment has been very much appreciated.

One important task that Margie was given, to secure funding for projects that would allow the establishment of a national secretariat, had her undivided attention. This resulted in the receipt of funding from the NDIA's Information Linkages and Capacity building (ILC) grant round in January.

The Best Practice Project funding agreement was signed in May and Dr John Toussaint was recruited in May as the Senior Project Manager. John's report on the focus and activities of the project are detailed in this annual report.

Kayleen Lenzo, Business and Support Services Manager, was originally on loan part time from ECIA NSW/ACT and became a full time employee of ECIA national in July 2017. Kayleen's knowledge and skills with financial and governance matters have proven to be a significant asset to the organisation as we transition to a single entity. Kayleen has facilitated the development of the restructure project for ECIA and has worked closely with the external consultants, Effective Governance, to progress this significant piece of work.

It was after a national face to face meeting in Adelaide in May that this restructure work was approved by all states and territories, excluding the Vic/Tas chapter. They resigned their membership to national ECIA, and from the national council, in August 2017. Neal Vickers (ECIA QLD) was nominated successfully to fill the role of national vice president. This has strengthened our oversight of all ECIA activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank a long-time supporter of ECIA, Peter De Natris, for his assistance with developing our strategic direction, in particular identifying our value proposition for product development.

Attendance at the NDIA national peak CEO forums in Melbourne have been a critical way to keep informed of the developments of the scheme as well as to inform and advocate for the necessary supports for young children. Margie and Neal have assisted me in ensuring that we have had continuity of attendance over the year.

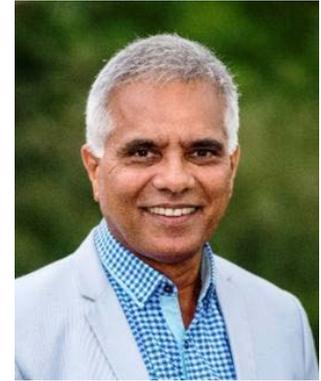
I would like to acknowledge the support of the executive, Denise Luscombe, Linda Williams, Neal Vickers, and other councillors throughout the year with their contributions to strategic planning and their responsiveness to matters that arise without notice. The voluntary nature of these roles has not diminished the commitment that has been given to the important matters in front of us. The added asset of paid staff cannot be understated either. The year ahead will bring new challenges but most importantly, new successes with our restructure completed and, hopefully, additional grants to build on the work that was started 23 years ago.



## ECIA ACTIVITIES

### Best Practice Project

Dr John Toussaint  
Senior Project Manager



I am indeed privileged to be part of a national organisation that places such a strong commitment to promoting services and supports for young children with disability and developmental delay and their families.

As the peak body for early childhood intervention in Australia representing professionals and organisations, ECIA National has been granted funding by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to implement the Best Practice Project across Australia.

The Project runs for one year, and will focus on supporting the implementation of nationally consistent best practice standards in provision of supports to children 0-6 as participants of the scheme. With the release and subsequent roll out of the Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach (ECEI), there is a need for significant transitional support, change management, and capacity building in the Early Childhood sector.

My role is responsible for leading the strategic direction of the Best Practice Project with the intention of building foundations for long-term growth and sustainability. The overall purpose of the Project is to achieve a nationally consistent implementation of best practice approaches in Early Childhood Early Intervention through the facilitation of knowledge transfer and shared understanding.

To achieve this, ECIA will:

- Map all early childhood intervention services available to work with children with developmental delay and disability and their families and carers.
- Facilitate a series of round table consultations with key stakeholders in disability, health and education to raise awareness of best practice and identify what ongoing support is required to ensure quality outcomes for children and families.
- Conduct a series of best practice training forums and develop online training resources.

At the completion of the Project a final report will be submitted to NDIA which will include a set of recommendations and jurisdiction action plans to manage change and resolve emerging issues. This will include communication and network channels, access to practice leadership and key messaging on the NDIS in a broad range of early childhood settings and topics.

I am excited about the potential of the ECIA Best Practice Project which I am sure will lead to better informed choice and control by families and the development of more inclusive communities.

## SA NDIA Project Stakeholder Engagement

Tracy Neldner  
Project Manager, SA



In 2016 Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) with the ECIA South Australian (SA) Chapter were successful in gaining a Community Inclusion and Capacity Development grant through the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Stakeholder Engagement Project aims have been focused on promoting the building of networks and collaboration, leveraging opportunities between mainstream agencies such as health, education and early childhood, and other service providers (including disability, Non-Government Organisations (NGO) and private providers) and informing families and community groups on the National Best Practice Guidelines and the ECIA journey here in South Australia.

Three key stakeholder groups were identified and targeted, these groups are referred to as tiers. Each tier engagement level and focus were selected with an aim to maximise and meet the key strategic actions. The engagements were tailored and pitched to participant level and in some groups to provide the project with specific information regarding the transition to and how Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) connects/intersects with the NDIS here in South Australia.

Participant feedback was sought and collated, this information and data in tandem with the survey information gathered through the mapping project assisted in refining engagement session formats to meet identified tiered needs as the project developed.

The key project outcomes can be summarised broadly:

- Tier 1 The formation of a working group to review and map the referral process and pathways for children to supports including NDIS. Together with NDIS SA Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Team working towards developing a consistent format of information and forms to ensure good communication.
- Tier 2 the ECI sector development in SA is slowly strengthening and further enhanced through the provision of quality professional development. Networking and training events have enabled the sector to meet and start more open communications and explore collaboration opportunities.
- Tier 3 Families and Communities are seeking information and understanding of the SA NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) landscape, presentations have worked towards achieving this. Using family friendly language, the suite of presentations and resources developed can be adapted for use by the Early Childhood Partner.

Recommendations include continued engagement and support through the development of information sheets, resources and training across each tier. Each sector requires greater understanding of ECEI / NDIS SA pathways, ideally a “map” could illustrate this. On the appointment of the ECI Partner broad based communication detailing pathways and processes in SA need to be widely distributed including identifying access points and clearly defined requirements for referring agencies. Significant education and easy English information resources within the family and community tier is required to shift the focus from service quantity to quality, in this project this has been best achieved in small interactive groups

## Early Childhood Intervention Service Mapping

Health Outcomes International (HOI)

Health Outcomes International (HOI) was appointed by Early Childhood Intervention Australia (ECIA) and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) to identify, scope and map existing and potential early childhood early intervention services available to work with children with developmental delay and disability and their families and carers in South Australia following full transition of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

The Early Childhood Intervention Service Mapping South Australia project (the project) aimed to provide ECIA and NDIA with important tools and resources to inform future service planning and development across the ECI service sector. The project also provided an opportunity to promote and model best practice to support consistency of ECI service provision across SA, including a focus on access and participation. This focus aligns with recent developments across the ECI sector, including formulation of the NDIS Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) Approach and the ECIA National Guidelines: Best practice in Early Childhood Intervention resources.

Specifically, the overarching goals of the project are to identify and understand:

1. Service coverage and capacity - Existing ECI service coverage, capacity, gaps and reach in SA
2. Service networks - Existing ECI service networks and relationships relating to ECEI Approach and NDIA access to planning.
3. Best practice - To identify level of the understanding and adoption of best practice in ECI.
4. Opportunities for sector development - To identify opportunities for development and diversification, including services for rural and remote communities, and mainstream partnerships.
5. Opportunities for coordination - To identify opportunities for improved coordination, and opportunities for integration with mainstream and wrap-around services.

The full final report including the key findings and recommendations can be found on the ECIA website.

ECIA wishes to recognise the support of the NDIA in providing funding.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Denise Luscombe  
Treasurer



It is with pleasure that I present the financial statements and Auditors report for the period July 2016 to June 2017.

During this financial year ECIA utilised the cash method of accounting and became registered for GST.

For this period ECIA made a profit of \$162,377; which is predominately attributable to grant income received to fund two projects – the SA Stakeholder & Engagement and Mapping project, and the ECIA Best Practice Project. Both projects were funded by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIS) to support the rollout of the Early Childhood Early Intervention Approach (ECEI) and to support the implementation of best practice in early childhood intervention. Both projects continue into the next financial year.

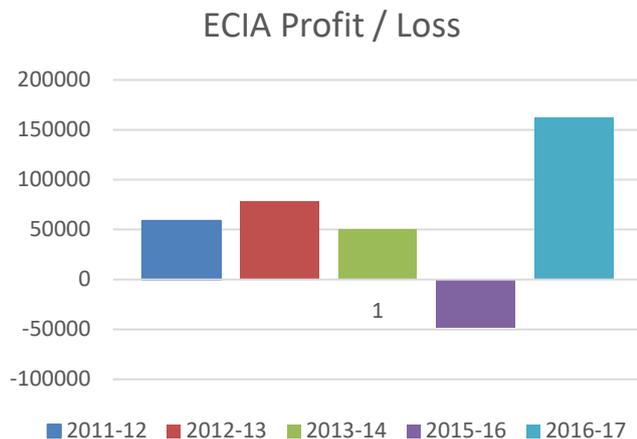
Other income was derived from Chapter membership levies, a National Conference held in Melbourne and project management income used to offset the costs of administering the above projects.

The below table represents the income and expenditure of the organisation by area of activity.



The ongoing financial viability of ECIA is of paramount importance, and to that end the organisation has made submissions for two grants to continue its work.

ECIAs profit / loss results over the previous 5 years shows the growth the organisation experienced during the 2016 – 17 financial year.



# Lachlan Douglas Mills CPA

Certified Practising Accountant  
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19th October, 2017

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To the members

**re: AUDIT REPORT - EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AUSTRALIA**

Scope:

I have audited the attached Income and Expense Statement of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Inc) for the year ended 30th June, 2017. The Committee is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report, and have determined that the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the basis of accounting used is appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members of the association at the Annual General Meeting. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any person other than the members, or of any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly with the cash basis of accounting.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion:

In my opinion the financial report of Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Inc) presents fairly the results of their operations for the year ended 30th June, 2017, in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

Yours faithfully



LACHLAN DOUGLAS MILLS  
CPA



Early Childhood Intervention Australia

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## Profit & Loss [Cash]

July 2016 To June 2017

Income	
Membership levies	\$5,580.45
Interest rec'd	\$257.91
Grants	\$346,894.71
Proj Mgmt Income	\$39,650.00
Conference	\$23,097.19
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$415,480.26</b>
<b>Total Cost Of Sales</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$415,480.26</b>
Expenses	
Employment expenses	
Wages & Salaries	\$79,989.10
Superannuation	\$7,542.10
Workers Comp Insurance	\$1,713.70
Recruitment	\$987.23
Contractors	\$4,481.50
Staff travel / accom / meals	\$2,237.95
Admin expenses	
Postage	\$64.73
Office expenses	\$1,704.82
Phone / Internet / Mobiles	\$3,055.67
Printing	\$239.17
Website - Operational	\$2,970.00
Subscriptions	\$221.49
Minor Capital Purchase	\$3,971.52
Banking & Legal	
Bank fees	\$50.91
Government charges	\$527.45
Insurance & Auditing	
Insurance	\$3,402.28
National Council Expenses	
National Council Meetings	\$14,324.80
NC Travel / Accom / Meals	\$3,200.41
National Tour	\$7,029.19
Projects	
Staff travel / accom / meals	\$14,464.83
Consultant/Contractor Proj	\$50,945.73
Publications / Marketing proj	\$332.73
Meeting / Forums / Networking	\$9,995.48
Proj Mgmt Expenses -> National	\$39,650.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$253,102.79</b>
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>\$162,377.47</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$162,377.47</b>

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iachlan Mills', is written over the bottom left portion of the table.

IACHLAN MILLS - AUDITOR

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE – THE RESTRUCTURE OF ECIA

ECIA is excited to announce its plans for the future of the organisation, its membership and stakeholders.

The restructuring of ECIA is being implemented using project management methodologies, and an external provider, Effective Governance, has been engaged to manage the project.

Effective Governance is part of the HopgoodGanim Advisory Group and is the largest and oldest specialist corporate governance advisory firm in Australia. Their mission is to deliver measurable value to their clients by assisting them with their governance, strategy and risk needs.

The ECIA Restructure project is primarily supported by Zac Zahner (CEO) and Mark Watson CSC (Senior Advisor) of eG with the assistance of the legal team at HopgoodGanim lawyers. Internally the project is supported by the Business and Support Services Manager.

The project has the full support of the ECIA National Council and its Chapters being NSW/ACT, SA, QLD, WA and the NT.

In August 2017 the VIC/TAS Chapter resigned its membership to the National body.

Over the next 12 months the restructure will see all members of chapters invited to join the new company limited by guarantee and become a member of the national single entity. Membership will also be open nationally to any individual or organisation with an interest in early childhood intervention, and in supporting children with disability and/or developmental delay.

The new company, to be called Early Childhood Intervention Australia Ltd, will be governed by a Board of directors and will be seeking registration with the ACNC as a registered charity.







## **CONTACT US**

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