



POLICY ROUNDTABLE

QUALITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION: MAXIMISING PARTICIPATION IN EARLY LEARNING



FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2024

In person: Productivity Commission
4 National Circuit, Barton, Canberra

Online: [Microsoft Teams](#) | Meeting ID: 431 386 876 624

PROGRAM

FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2024 | 9.00AM – 1.30PM AEST

8.45am

Arrival

9.00 - 9.05am

Welcome and opening remarks

Professor Susan Danby | **Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child**

9.05 - 9.10am

Productivity Commission inquiry progress

Lisa Gropp, Martin Stokie and Professor Deborah Brennan | **Commissioners**

9.10 - 10.40am

Supporting children with additional needs

Presenters:

- Professor Ilan Katz | **Social Policy Research Centre**
- Professor Cheryl Dissanayake | **Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre**
- Professor Jenny Downs | **Telethon Kids Institute**

Discussion led by Professor Cheryl Dissanayake

10.40 - 11.00am

Morning tea

11.00am- 12.30pm

Effective models of system stewardship

Presenters:

- Professor Mark Considine | **University of Melbourne**
- Dr Rob Bray | **Australian National University**

Discussion led by Emeritus Professor Gabrielle Meagher

12.30 - 12.45pm

Bringing it all together: reflections

12.45 - 1.30pm

Lunch

PARTICIPANTS

Dr Megan Blaxland	Senior Research Fellow, Social Policy Research Centre University of NSW
Prof Jeff Borland FASSA	Truby Williams Professor of Economics University of Melbourne
Dr Rob Bray	Research Fellow Australian National University
Prof Deborah Brennan AM FASSA	Associate Commissioner Productivity Commission
Mr John Burton	Executive Director, Social Policy and Research SNAICC
Prof Mark Considine AM FASSA	Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor Fellowship University of Melbourne
Prof Kim Cornish AM FASSA	Director Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health
Prof Susan Danby FASSA	Director Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child
Dr Bob Davidson	Honorary Research Fellow Macquarie University
Ms Jane Delaney	Senior Advisor Early Childhood and Education Speech Pathology Australia
Prof Cheryl Dissanayake AM FASSA	Chair, Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre La Trobe University
Prof Jenny Downs	Head, Child Disability Telethon Kids Institute
Prof Susan Edwards	Director Early Childhood Futures, Australian Catholic University
Emeritus Prof Marilyn Flear FASSA	Foundation Chair Early Childhood Education and Development, Monash University
Ms Lisa Gropp	Commissioner Productivity Commission
Prof Richard Holden FASSA	President Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
Prof Guyonne Kalb FASSA	Professorial Fellow Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research
Prof Ilan Katz	Social Policy Research Centre University of NSW
Emeritus Prof Gabrielle Meagher	School of Social Sciences Macquarie University
Dr Alyssa Milton	Senior Research Fellow Sydney School of Medicine, University of Sydney
Dr Tim Moore	Senior Research Fellow Murdoch Children's Research Institute
Mr Rob Ryan	Chief Executive Officer Parenting Research Centre
Dr Monique Seymour	Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development Deakin University
Prof Peter Shergold AC FASSA	Board Chair James Martin Institute for Public Policy
Prof Helen Skouteris FASSA	Monash Warwick Professor Monash University
Dr Catherine Smith	Centre for Wellbeing Science University of Melbourne
Mr Martin Stokie	Commissioner Productivity Commission
Ms Miriam Veisman-Apter	Assistant Commissioner Productivity Commission
Ms Lou Will	Assistant Commissioner Productivity Commission
Prof Sandie Wong	Co-Deputy Director Centre for Research in Early Childhood Education

PRE-READ & RESOURCES

Inquiry into the early childhood education and care sector in Australia

Inquiry Terms of Reference

Session 1: Supporting children with additional needs

A path to universal early childhood education and care, Draft report:

Supplementary paper 2: How do ECEC services support children?

This paper considers how well Australian services deliver early childhood education and care that responds to children's needs, given the diversity of the children who attend ECEC and the diversity of Australian children more broadly.

Presenter Ilan Katz will draw from recent evaluation reports including *Evaluation of SDN Beranga Autism-Specific Preschool: Final Report* (2023) and *Disability Inclusion Program Evaluation, Final Report* (2022)

Session 2: Effective models of system stewardship

A path to universal early childhood education and care, Draft report:

Supplementary paper 9: Funding, governance and stewardship.

This paper focuses on the question *what might be the most effective and efficient funding and governance structures for delivering the ECEC policy agenda proposed by the Commission?* This paper also considers how well governments are working together to achieve the broad objectives of ECEC policy, and whether further efforts to enhance collaboration and policy coordination are required through a stronger stewardship model.

Presenter Mark Considine will draw from his book *The Careless State: Reforming Australia's Social Services*, key concepts are also summarised in the Inside Story article *Choice versus Voice*.

Presenter Rob Bray's presentation will draw from his *submission* with Matthew Gray to the inquiry draft report.