

Media Release

September 2014

Child care educators to present at national conference

A group of professional early childhood educators from the Brisbane region, who have been investigating the crucial role educational leaders play in our early childhood education and care services, will showcase the results of their action research project at a national early childhood conference this week.

For the past year, the dedicated group from Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services in and around the Caboolture area have been working with colleagues from TAFE Queensland Brisbane and Queensland University of Technology (QUT) on the project, *Leading Excellent Practice in Early Childhood Education and Care*, which is in relation to the Australian Government's National Education and Care Services legislation.

Project Mentor and Children's Services teacher, Jenny Clarke said those involved have been tirelessly researching and addressing key topics with the aim of supporting educational leaders.

"It's all about the journey to high-quality education and care outcomes for young children," Jenny explained.

"The aim was to support our educational leaders with their mandated role to perform tasks at an optimal level and to be able to lead others towards improved practices that then allows children to reach their maximum potential."

The research topics included the art of professional conversations, critical reflection, the learning styles of educators, creating a learning environment and the role of an educational leader.

Jenny said the research project was made possible because of the strong, long-standing link between TAFE Queensland and QUT.

"It was thanks to the expert guidance of QUT's Senior Early Childhood Lecturer, Dr. Sue Irvine that the team was able to carry out their research into the important role that educational leaders play in our ECEC services," Jenny explained.

"Dr. Irvine was also able to access funding from the Queensland Health and Community Services Workforce Council, which was integral to be able to resource the project with leading educators, who were then able to meet regularly to carry out their research."

The Early Childhood Australia (ECA) conference is one of Australia's most significant professional occasions in the industry, bringing together early childhood educators, academics, leaders and other allied professionals who all contribute to improved outcomes for young children.

It will be held in Melbourne this week from 4-7 September.

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