



Early Childhood Educators' Wellbeing Project (ECEWP)

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We pay our respects to the Traditional Owners, past and present, of the lands where we live and work.

Introduction

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter reporting on our research into early childhood educators' wellbeing in Australia.

Highlights in this issue include:

- Progress since our co-design workshop on wellbeing initiatives in the Australian context
- Federal funding for a new cooperative research centre focused on the care economy
- Recent presentations and publications

Wellbeing initiative program logic

In October 2024 we held a successful stakeholder and multidisciplinary co-design workshop to seek expert input on wellbeing initiatives for educators in our Australian context. We also conducted a short survey afterwards.

We have combined this expert input and feedback into a *program logic* that can be used to help design, implement and evaluate wellbeing initiatives in early childhood education and care. A program logic is a visual representation of what should be considered at different levels – from educators to services/organisations and systems. It links targets, inputs, activities, outcomes and impacts.

We have already started to look at how some existing initiatives fit into this program logic and how we can support evaluations into the future. We hope to make the program logic publicly available by the end of the year.

Wellbeing initiative support

As well as developing a program logic to evaluate wellbeing initiatives, we are also working on a range of ways to support services and organisations who are considering, developing or currently using initiatives to improve the wellbeing of their educators.

This work will include setting up a repository of existing wellbeing initiatives on our website. In addition, we plan to provide information on what makes a high-quality wellbeing initiative, and tips for evaluating an initiative. Look out for the forthcoming launch of these supports, as well as ways you can contribute.



Care economy research

The [Care Economy Cooperative Research Centre](#) (CRC) is a \$129 million 10-year partnership between 60 organisations across Australia, based at La Trobe University's Research and Innovation Precinct.

The CRC aims to develop and implement innovative solutions to improve care, across early childhood education (led by Macquarie University), aged care, community healthcare,



MACQUARIE
University



Queensland, Australia

disability services, family services, housing, mental health, wellbeing and youth services. Partners from research institutions, technology organisations and industry/sectors will work together on technology and data solutions and workforce innovation.

Our wellbeing work forms a core part of this research. We will be looking for opportunities to work with partners in the Care Economy CRC to support ongoing research efforts.

Recent presentations

In April, Rebecca Bull attended the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Denver. The theme for the world's largest gathering of educational researchers was *Research, Remedy and Repair: Toward Just Educational Renewal*.

Rebecca presented on our intention to leave data in a symposium on global perspectives on early care and education workforce wellbeing and working conditions. The focus of our paper was "Should I stay or should I go now? Predictors of intention to leave the early childhood profession in Australia".



The four symposium papers presented findings on various working conditions and contextual factors and their relationship to multiple facets of early childhood educator wellbeing from four countries (Australia, Hong Kong SAR, China, Singapore and the USA). The symposium ignited conversation and inquiry into the importance of educator wellbeing to the overall health, vitality and future success of the sector.

Recent publications

In the April issue of *Rattler*, we provided insights on the value of [clinical supervision for early childhood educators](#). Clinical supervision has long been a cornerstone of professions such as psychology and social work, but it remains a relatively untapped resource in early childhood education and care. This article explores the potential of clinical supervision to provide guidance and support for educators, while also building their resilience and potentially boosting staff retention.



Workplace wellbeing resources

The NSW Department of Education has recently launched their [workplace wellbeing resources](#) for early childhood education and care professionals. These tailored, evidence-based resources and tools include webinars, toolkits and case studies.

They are designed to address challenges such as stress and burnout, and to support educators both during difficult times and in their everyday work. New resources will be added regularly.

MORE INFORMATION ON ECEWP

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