



Early Childhood Educators' Wellbeing Project (ECEWP)

Timeline

2025

Launched [wellbeing initiative profiles](#) on our website to support services and organisations in considering, developing or using wellbeing initiatives by providing real-world examples

Partnered with Kinex Health to support and measure their [Wellbeing Enrichment Program](#) for early childhood educators

Partnered with Early Learning Association Australia and WorkSafe Victoria to research the role of occupational health and safety representatives in the EC sector

Published article on early childhood educators' wellbeing and physiological stress in the workplace in the *International Journal of Stress Management* ([Bull et al., 2025](#))

Contributed to Community Early Learning Australia's *Amplify!* blog on [how to prioritise wellbeing during challenging times](#)

Published our research on the value of [clinical supervision for early childhood educators](#) in *Rattler*

Collaborated with Macquarie University on the ECE component of the \$129 million, 10-year Care Economy Cooperative Research Centre

2024

Held workshop with 40 participants to discuss co-design of wellbeing initiatives for early childhood professionals

Collaborated with US research teams who have implemented wellbeing interventions

Welcomed Nicole Jamison to the project team

Approved use of our intention to leave dataset (anonymised) to help inform public policy on workforce retention

Published article on work-related wellbeing, culture and climate on intention to leave in the early childhood sector in *Early Childhood Research Quarterly* ([Bull et al., 2024](#))

Published article on development of our cross-national research alliance (WECARE) in the *Qualitative Research Journal* ([Cumming et al., 2024](#))

Published article on clinical supervision for centre directors in *Cogent Education* ([Wong et al., 2024](#))

2023

Launched ECEWP website in April

Completed data collection for hair cortisol pilot study

Delivered presentations to the ACT, NSW and Victorian Government Departments of Education

Contributed to ECEC inquiries by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and Productivity Commission

Delivered first joint presentations from our international collaboration (WECARE) at the 12th OMEP Asia-Pacific Conference

Published the protocol for our holistic measurement of educators' wellbeing in the *International Journal of Research & Method in Education* ([Wong et al., 2023](#))

Published article on clinical supervision for leaders of ECE services experiencing natural disasters in the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* ([Wong, 2023](#))

Published our research in *Every Child*

2022

Held online stakeholder update event with over 40 participants to share research findings, future directions and ways to contribute

Began pilot study on the feasibility of using hair samples to measure cortisol

Partnered with Community Connections Solutions Australia (CCSA) to examine what works for supporting early childhood educators' wellbeing

Published article on the prevalence of bullying in Australian ECE services in the *International Journal of Early Childhood* ([McFarland et al., 2022](#))

Published book chapter on the effects of COVID-19 on educators' wellbeing ([McFarland et al., 2022](#))

Published our research in ECA's *Everyday Learning Series* and *ChildLinks*

2021

Welcomed Laura McFarland to the project team

Replicated our survey with over 800 EC educators across Australia

Partially replicated our study in Canada, Finland, Hong Kong SAR and China, allowing international comparisons of educators' wellbeing

Received a generous donation from a national early childhood organisation to support continuing research into educators' wellbeing

Consulted on the National Quality Standard and new National Workforce Strategy

Published case study of leadership in ECE service providers during COVID-19 in the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* ([Logan et al., 2021](#))

Published analysis of connections between educators' wellbeing, their work environment and quality in the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* ([Cumming et al., 2021](#))

Published our research in [Bedrock](#) and *Every Child*

2020

Welcomed Rebecca Bull to the project team

Hosted our first meeting with international collaborators

Lobbied the federal and state governments to increase support for early childhood educators during the COVID-19 pandemic

Commissioned by industry partners to conduct workshops on wellbeing for ECE services across Australia

Published critique of discourses surrounding educator wellbeing in a special issue of *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood* ([Cumming et al., 2020](#)) on worker's lives

Published article on service provider leaders' perspectives on educator wellbeing in the *International Journal of Early Childhood* ([Logan et al., 2020](#))

Published our research in *Rattler* and [Bedrock](#)

2019

Held a stakeholder roundtable event with over 40 participants to share initial findings from our pilot project and provide feedback on research directions

ECEWP holistic protocol used in contract research examining the effects of clinical supervision on early childhood centre directors

Published our research in *Every Child*

2018

Published article on holistic conceptualisation of early childhood educators' wellbeing in *Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood* ([Cumming & Wong, 2018](#))

Conducted pilot project, using standard and innovative tools, to objectively measure 30 early childhood educators' psychological and physiological wellbeing within their work environment

Researchers: Sandie Wong, Tamara Cumming, Helen Logan, Sandy MacQuarrie
Project Manager: Kim Woodland

Published our research in ECA's *Voice* and *C&K Building Waterfalls Magazine*

2017

Published a comprehensive literature review on early childhood educators' wellbeing in the *Early Childhood Education Journal* ([Cumming, 2017](#))
