

## Draft Theme: "Tackling the Tough Stuff"

In their everyday work with children and families, early years professionals in a range of fields must "tackle the tough stuff": the issues that might be difficult to face, but which require genuine thought, care and attention so that those who experience them feel safe and supported. The "tough stuff" presents challenges for children's and families' sense of security and wellbeing, but early years professionals are well-placed to support them through these challenges. The provision of such support requires early years professionals to be informed, aware, and open-minded to the various perspectives and experiences related to the "tough stuff". This year's conference aims build this awareness.

## Draft Program

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017

12.00 – 1.00	Lunch and registration
	Welcome to Country
1.00 – 1.30	Welcome and overview <i>Donna Mlejnek, Gateway Health (MC)</i>
1.30 – 2.15	Keynote 1: Children's safety (physical, emotional, cultural, religious) <i>Liana Buchanan, Victoria's Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People</i>
2.15 – 3.00	Keynote 2: Refugee children and families <i>TBA</i>
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea
3.30 – 4.30	Keynote 3: Family violence <i>Rosie Batty</i>
4.30 – 4.45	Close of formal program and welcome to cocktail reception
5.00 – 6.30	Celebrity speaker <i>Sara Storer</i>  Cocktail reception

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

8.30 – 8.45	Registration
8.45 – 9.00	Welcome and overview <i>Donna Mlejnek, Gateway Health (MC)</i>
9.00 – 10.00	Keynote 4: Supporting gender diverse children and their families <i>Dr Rachel Richardson, Charles Sturt University</i>
10.00 – 10.15	Lived experience: Darcy's story
10.15 – 10.45	Morning tea
10.45 – 11.30	Keynote 5: The great health debates (anti-vaxxing, food allergies, Panadol use, "Dr Google") <i>Tracey Merriman, paediatrician</i>  Perspectives from the field: Working with children and families who experience health challenges <i>Louise Humphries, Health Focus Physiotherapy</i>
11.30 – 12.30	<i>Rachel Webb, Aspire</i> <i>Jane Caldwell, visiting nurse</i> <i>Paige Lee, Charles Sturt University/Country Hope</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.15	Keynote 6: Collaborating to support Indigenous children and families <i>Someone from SNAICC?</i>
2.15 – 3.00	Keynote 7: Children's wellbeing and sense of self <i>Someone from Berry Street?</i>
3.00 – 3.30	Afternoon tea
3.30 – 3.45	Reflecting on the tough stuff <i>Dr Rachel Richardson, Charles Sturt University</i>
3.45 – 4.45	Keynote 6: Educators tackling the tough stuff: The take-home messages <i>Jackie Furey, psychotherapist</i>
4.45	Close