

PROGRAM

Friday, 25 March 2022

# The *only* OOSH Conference

Bringing Together Out of School Hour Care Professionals

Rydges World Square, Sydney

*Rebuild*

*Recharge*

*Reconnect*



**Network of Community Activities**

Phone: (02) 9212 3244

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**network**  
of Community Activities

*48 Years Supporting OOSH*

# The *only* OOSH Conference



## Welcome to our Program We can't wait to see you!

It's time to Rebuild, Recharge, Reconnect and this is the event to make it happen! There has never been a more important time for us to engage with each other, and look to the future of OOSH. On behalf of Network, the NSW OOSH Peak body and voice of the Sector, we invite you to the 2022 OOSH Conference. We are thrilled to be able to finally host this much needed event for our sector.

The worldwide pandemic has impacted our sector enormously and caused a great deal of extra stress and uncertainty for many in our OOSH community. The pandemic has exposed some of the longstanding issues facing our sector, including lack of high quality facilities, adequate formal recognition (including pay and conditions), and an ever-reducing workforce. The impact has been huge and ongoing.

### **At Network we continue to be inspired by the resilience and determination shown by Educators to meet these challenges and support families.**

Out of School Hours services continued to be a great support to children during their time out of school. Many OOSH organisations went above and beyond and found innovative ways to adapt their service delivery during the pandemic.

Since the last Network Conference, collectively, we have worked together to get the right financial support to services during the pandemic which was essential to supporting services viability. There are however many services still vulnerable and our ongoing challenge continues to be about retaining the range of providers within NSW. We know this is good for communities and children. Services are at the heart of any school community.

### **Presentations, Learning Labs Galore**

We are pleased to be able to welcome a range of well known speakers including Zoë Robinson NSW Advocate for Children and Young People who works tirelessly to make sure the voices of children are heard.

Maggie Dent - the guru of common sense - is an old friend of Network and loved by our sector. She understands our challenges and recognises the important work you do. She is sure to leave you inspired with lots of practical strategies to take away. I am also excited to have Angus Gorrie who is part of "The Outsiders" and manages the most extraordinary OOSH service in Queensland. His ideas and ways of working are going to blow your mind.

### **OOSH Specific Research**

Dr Jennifer Cartmel and Dr Bruce Hurst will also add depth & value to Network's conference sharing their knowledge and contemporary research. They are essentially the only researchers in Australia who focus completely on our sector. Hearing about the latest research and thinking will most certainly get Educators excited about possibilities and opportunities. So come to enjoy their observations and insights. Our learning labs invite you to engage in thought provoking discussion and be inspired by best practice. We welcome the NSW Department of Education being a part of this event. They will be providing insight into quality and OOSH.

The program is excellent, and the networking opportunities will be indeed outstanding like all Network events. This combined with the beautiful backdrop of the extraordinary city of Sydney will add to the pleasure of the conference. Be sure to stay the night and provide lasting memories beyond the Network conference. Why not even make a weekend of it?

### **48 Years of Impact**

I add my best wishes for a successful and fruitful conference. As Network celebrates its 48th year, we are excited to be able to bring this conference program to you, to share knowledge and experiences that will help us, together, to build a strong and vibrant sector.

Pauline

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## Conference Objective:

Bringing Together Out of School Hour Care Professionals

### Rebuild:

A wonderful opportunity to come together to listen and learn from one another on how we continue to support our children and rebuild OOSH services in our 'new pandemic world'. Come with an open mind ready to absorb and enhance your knowledge and expertise of children, families and communities, to strengthen your individual work with children and build upon your service's reputation.

### Recharge:

Celebrate and share the great work Educators and OOSH services do everyday! Recharge and refresh your thinking by sharing our experiences and ideas about what works and how we collectively address sector challenges. Showcase best practices that contribute to positive outcomes for children who attend OOSH.

### Reconnect:

Inspire action and enable yourself and other Educators to reconnect with each other, build on existing relationships and make new friends. The power of shared learning strengthens both Educators and children's agency, self and service improvements and connection to OOSH. Reconnect with like minded professionals after the deprivation of the last 2 years and take away new strategies, tips and tricks that will increase your services quality provision.

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## Official Opening:

### **Zoë Robinson:** NSW Advocate for Children and Young People

Network is excited to have Zoë the NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, officially open our 2022 conference.

Zoë was appointed as the Acting Advocate in 2020 and appointed, by the Governor of NSW, as Advocate for a five year term in January 2021. Excitingly, Zoe is the youngest Advocate appointed in Australia.

In two of what could be described as most challenging years young people in this State have faced, Zoë and the ACYP team have engaged with and heard feedback from close to 15,000 children and young people from all corners of NSW.

Voice is at the very heart of Zoë's work, she raises the collective voices of children and young people to decision makers to ensure that policy and service delivery are developed in the best interests of those she serves.

She puts a particular focus on the most vulnerable young members of our communities, she listens to young people in juvenile justice, in out-of-home care, young people experiencing homelessness, children and young people with disability and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and uses their voice to incite positive change for all children and young people.

She firmly believes that children and young people should be given every opportunity to thrive and set themselves up for success, and that they should have the opportunity to choose what that means to them.



Office of the  
Advocate for Children  
and Young People

**acyp.**



# The *only* OOSH Conference



## Key Note Speakers:

### Maggie Dent: Author and Child Advocate

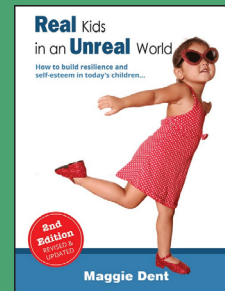
Maggie Dent is an author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist with a particular interest in the early years and adolescence. Commonly known as the “queen of common sense” she is OOSH friendly and an avid child advocate.

Maggie has written numerous books and appeared on television and podcasts including ABC and NOVA radio and national TV. Maggie is an advocate for the healthy, common-sense raising of children in order to strengthen families and communities. She is a passionate, positive voice for children of all ages.

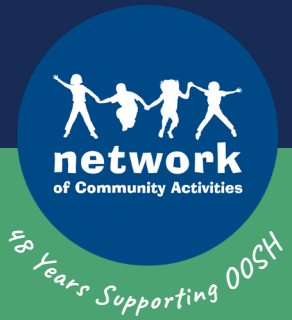
Maggie is a champion of the Telethon Kids Institute trust, established 50 years ago, to financially support the medical & social welfare of children and which funds research into children’s diseases. Maggie is also a proud ambassador for Smiling Mind a not-for-profit web and app-based meditation program dedicated to having mindfulness in schools.

Maggie’s keynote address will explore childhood stress and anxiety in an ever challenging world for children including the impact of the COVID pandemic and return to the classroom and OOSH. Maggie will share practical tips and useful strategies for Educators to support children with anxiety and how OOSH can contribute to calmer happier children.

Visit Maggie’s Website  
[www.maggiedent.com](http://www.maggiedent.com)



# The *only* OOSH Conference



## Key Note Speakers:

### Angus Gorrie: The Outsiders, QLD

#### The evolution of a play culture: Camp Hill OSHC

In 2015 some of the Camp Hill OSHC team visited an Adventure Playground in Germany and their perspectives on the capabilities and capacities of children changed forever. Since that time the entire team at Camp Hill OSHC have been on a journey of discovery, challenges and revelations. Learn from Angus Gorrie, Camp Hill OSHC's Educational Leader as he unpacks the evolution of this culture, the onboarding of staff and stakeholders, the perceptive challenges and barriers and how this all looks when paralleled with the My Time Our Place framework and National Quality Standards. Angus hopes that by sharing the hurdles as well as the joys others can avoid some of the trial and error and ensure a smoother road for anyone interested in practice of this kind. Finally, hear the many reasons why this evolution has been of incredible benefit to the hundreds of children, and practitioners, that call the Camp Hill OSHC Adventure Playground their second home.

As a playworker and play advocate, Angus Gorrie is passionate about providing authentic play opportunities for children, wherever they may be, and pushing back against increased play deprivation and play bias. Angus has qualifications in Behavioural and Social Sciences, and Playwork. He also spends his day as a practitioner working in a large Adventure Playground. It is this experience and the stories that come with working in a practical setting, combined with the theory and knowledge of study that shapes and guides Angus's perspectives and points of view.

Visit The Outsiders website:  
[theoutsidersplayadvocates.com](http://theoutsidersplayadvocates.com)

**Watch Angus's Introductory Video**



# The *only* OOSH Conference



## Learning Labs:

Delegates can choose one of the following 3 concurrent learning labs to attend.

### 1. **Kylie Keane:** **Educational Leader Extraordinaire**

Kylie is a Playworker and Consultant and is currently an Educational Leader at an OSHC in Canberra who have just been awarded excellence for the second time. Kylie grew up attending OSHC and never left. With over 10 years of experience working with school aged children here in Australia and multiple study tours to the UK and USA she has developed a strong passion for play, risk, children's rights and pushing beyond the status quo.



#### **Learning Lab: Educational Leadership**

The Educational Leader lab offers a unique opportunity to unpack not only what this role should be, but to also question what it could be. It is a chance to further develop your understanding and thinking about the role and possible ways to support Educators to facilitate programmes that better support and respect children's rights, that are play focused and exceed the NQS. The session aims to leave you challenged and inspired and provide a platform for timely discussions with OSHC like minded peers.

### **Spotlight**

#### **Showcasing Practice with Erin Sammut from Wilberforce**

Erin Sammut, Educational Leader from Wilberforce OOSH in the Hawkesbury will be sharing her experience of being an outstanding Ed Leader. This doesn't happen by chance, but rather over time (and with lots of hard work and patience). Erin will share some of the practices that allow Educators to thrive.

*OK*



## Learning Labs:



### 2. Maggie Dent:

#### Learning Lab: 10 Resilience Building Blocks for today's children

Are you worried, confused or concerned about being an Educator in today's chaotic world? Children need to have certain basic experiences to build the competencies that will help them manage life - the good, the bad and the ugly. Maggie has developed a common-sense, practical model of 10 building blocks that will reassure Educators that what we have always known to be important for children 5 - 12 years old are still important. This learning lab will offer you practical, common-sense ideas and strategies to potentially make small changes in your service, which will make a big difference to a child's cognitive, physical, psychological, emotional and social health later in life.

*OK*



### 3. NSW Dept. of Education:

#### Learning Lab: Assessment and Rating

It's always been important to understand the quality of OOSH, because the work that OOSH Educators do is important to children, it has a real long term impact. There are some unique challenges for OOSH services being an exceeding service.

Come to hear the latest updates on how OOSH services are doing in relation to quality. Where can we improve and what can we celebrate?

In 2019, at the last Network conference, the NSW Department of Education presented a thought provoking and inspirational session and this learning lab promises to evoke the same lively discussion. This session is a welcome addition to this year's programme.

There will be time for a Q & A session so you can have your particular questions answered and time to seek guidance on any specific issues your service may be experiencing.



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## Plenary Sessions:



### Dr Bruce Hurst:

Research Fellow  
Graduate School of Education  
Doctor of Philosophy  
The University of Melbourne

Bruce's primary research interests relate to participatory research methodologies to understand children's views about Outside School Hours Care settings. He finds great value in poststructural theories as a way of disrupting 'taken for granted' assumptions in Outside School Hours Care. Bruce is a prolific writer on topics relevant to OOSH including professional standards, re-conceptualising older children in OOSH and the important role OOSH plays in providing children with play and leisure activities to assist their development.

#### **Rethinking children's voices in OOSH. Can... should consultations with children be playful?**

This session invites delegates to re-think how you consult with children. It looks at the binaries of adult/child and work/play that dominate Western thought and contemplates whether these influence the ways we conduct our consultations. This presentation asks you to contemplate whether we can disrupt binary thinking and find more playful ways to seek children's views. After all, OOSH is all about play and leisure, so why can't consultation be playful too?



### Dr Jennifer Cartmel:

Associate Professor -  
Child, Youth and Family Practice  
School of Health Sciences and Social Work  
Griffith University

Dr Jennifer Cartmel is Network's Ambassador. Dr Cartmel is the Program Director of Human Services Programs (Undergraduate and Postgraduate) at Griffith University, and senior lecturer in the School of Health Sciences and Social Work. She has been involved in a wide range of research projects focusing on: children's social and emotional learning, the workforce in children's services including child care settings and human service organisations.

Most recently Dr Cartmel has been part of the team reviewing, drafting and testing the updated national learning framework, 'My Time Our Place', for OOSH. Dr Cartmel will present the team's progress and share some of the proposed recommendations. She will also discuss the update and the impact of children's contributions.

Dr Cartmel's plenary session will unpack the process and progress of the national learning framework, My Time Our Place. Jennifer will be able to share the team's experiences, the importance of the children's voices who were invited to contribute and what we can expect of the new framework.

**Watch Dr. Cartmel's Introductory Video**

# The *only* OOSH Conference



## Accommodation Special Rate

Network has been successful in securing a special discount for OOSHies who want a night's accommodation, with breakfast, at the conference venue.

Why not spend the night before or after the conference and explore the city?

If you are registered for the conference and wish to stay at the venue then contact the Rydges, World Square, reservation team via phone (02 8268 1888) or email (reservations\_worldsquare@evt.com) and quote **BLOCK ID : 202313** or **BLOCK NAME: Network Community Activities - Allotment**.

Credit card details are required to be provided for guarantee purposes at the time of booking. The accommodation special is \$239 for a Deluxe King Room including Breakfast for one - additional breakfast +\$20 per person.

Rydges World Square  
389 Pitt St Sydney



## Connecting OOSHies at our Networking Event

**Time to relax and unwind**  
**Time for human connection**

Networking is invaluable to OOSHies. By networking with each other opinions are shared, ideas developed and collaborations created. We have missed mixing and meeting other OOSHies face-to-face during the pandemic.

Following a fantastic conference we will finish the day with our special social event. Where you get to relax, rewind and re-hash the day's thought provoking presentations. We encourage as many of you as possible to stay for this event which is part of your conference ticket or bring the team with individual tickets available. Make new connections with like-minded people who have similar interests from all around NSW. It's not often OOSHies get the time to socialise in the city on a Friday! What a way to kick start the weekend.



**Members only networking  
event registration**

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## Lucky Door Prizes:

Network is very pleased to have 2 lucky door prizes to give away at the conference. Be sure to register today and secure your place so you can be in the running to win!

Rydges World Square  
389 Pitt St Sydney

25th March, 2022  
9am – 5pm followed by  
a networking event

Network recognises  
BESydney and Destination  
NSW as a sponsor of this  
conference.



Network acknowledges  
the NSW Government  
for travel subsidies  
sponsorship.



## Conference Registration

“Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn and you will.”

Registration is open to all. Members and non-members and OOSH services located across Australia.

Members Price: \$460 + GST

Non members Price: \$550 + GST

**MEMBERS  
REGISTRATION**

**NON-MEMBERS  
REGISTRATION**

### Disclaimer:

At the time of registration, Network of Community Activities (NOCA) has provided the most recent information available about speakers, content and all details relating to the conference and the networking event. Changes to the conference or networking event may take place beyond the control of NOCA. NOCA will not take any responsibility for any errors, omissions and changes to the program or content of the conference. NOCA reserves the right to make changes as it deems necessary without penalty and in such situations no refunds, part refunds or alternative offers shall be made.



*48 Years Supporting OOSH*

### Network of Community Activities

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