



Greetings from Network, the NSW OOSH Peak body!

We are thrilled to bring together our OOSH community for this significant event. A celebration of the last 50 years. The theme of this year focuses on "Theory vs Reality," 50 years later, exploring the contrast between what is expected and what actually happens in reality. It emphasises the unpredictability of the OOSH environment and highlights the necessity of flexibility and adaptability among our Educators.

Our conference aims to highlight the essential impact Out of School Hour programs have on children's mental health, well-being, and overall development. Educators play a crucial role in providing valuable learning experiences through play, peer interaction, and community engagement. The commitment shown by OOSH Educators is truly remarkable!

It is our collective duty to ensure all children have access to high-quality Out of School Hours services and advocate for their right to play. Our conference program for the day promises exciting opportunities for educators to connect and collaborate.

This conference is specifically designed for our sector, acknowledging your significant contribution in supporting children and families within school environments and the community more broadly.

The lineup of distinguished speakers and learning lab facilitators will further motivate your efforts (more details provided in the program).

Every single one of you holds the power to significantly impact the lives of children! Your presence at this conference is deeply appreciated; together, we are a force for positive change.

Pauline O'Kane CEO

The schedule for this program may be altered.

July 26, 2024 - Brighton le Sands

The OOSH Conference

Program at a Glance

Implications for Out of School Hours Care

Join Mark Barraket, Deputy Secretary of ECO at the NSW Department of Education to learn about the department's vision for out-of-school hours this year and in the future.

Our Kids Count: Supporting Mental Wellbeing to Help our Children Thrive with Dr Kerrie Buhagiar | Chief Programs Officer, Smiling Mind

The decrease in children's mental well-being is noticeable every day at OOSH. Come and explore this significant subject with us, engaging in meaningful conversations regarding children's mental health.

Leadership Theory vs Leadership Reality

with Darren Brisbane, General Manager | Oatley Ooshcare

There is no secret to it. Effective leadership is crucial for the success of an Out-of-School Hours (OOSH) programme Organisations that nurture and uphold intricate and effective interpersonal connections outperform those that do not.

Participation in Practice

with Team ACYP: Sophia Finlay Melville, Freija Brandie, Betty Nguyen & Renee Arringer

Collaborating with children, valuing their perspectives, and upholding their rights to influence decisions that impact them are crucial elements in the creation of meaningful OOSH programs. By actively listening to children, educators can develop programs that align with children's innate curiosity and desire for exploration.

Seeing Playwork in Action - Sharing Practice Stories

with Eastwood Heights OOSH team: Polly, Sam, Mel and Reuben

MYTOP v.2 has recently recognized playwork practice as an established approach in OOSH operations. Join us to learn from an OOSH centre that fully integrates Playworker Pedagogy and the PARS playwork method into its daily activities.

Exceeding Practice

NSW Lead Assessor and Manager Continuous Improvement Team from the NSW Early Childhood Education and Care Regulatory Authority

Are you confident in your practices but struggle to recognise them as exceeding? Do you need clarification on the distinction between Meeting and Exceeding criteria?

- Break down the Exceeding themes for better comprehension
- Discuss key practices and how they link to the NQS
- Share tools and support options to enhance your understanding of the NQS to feel confident in articulating your key practices during your assessment and rating visit.

Discover the Balance

with Daniel Stallard | DJS Compliance

Join us to explore the vital question of whether we're documenting too much and what truly matters in documentation for the out-of-school hours sector in NSW. Delve into current practices, challenges, and redefine what constitutes meaningful documentation. Engage in discussions, and practical strategies to streamline your documentation efforts effectively.

Taking Playwork Theory & Achieving Relatable and Sustainable Practice

with Angus Gorrie | The Outsiders

The concepts surrounding Playwork are often infectious, inspirational and hugely motivating to practitioners in the OOSH sector. Yet why do so many struggle to pull it off and experience the benefits? Despite the efforts in reframing what might be seen perceptively as "unintentional", the rewards are huge and worth striving for.

When the Conference Ends... THE FUN BEGINS

Come and be a part of Network's 50th Anniversary with the extravagant Gold Gala Dinner & OOSHCA Awards. Join us for an unforgettable night. Don't forget to wear your most stylish gold for a change to win!