



2023 C&K
CONFERENCE

Reflect.
Connect.
Ignite.

for a shared future



CALL FOR PAPERS INFORMATION

Call for papers is now open!

Conference Theme: Reflect, Connect, Ignite - for a shared future

As we look to the future as early years professionals, it's time to listen to those who are nurturing and inspiring children and educators to succeed in an ever-changing world.

On 29 July 2023, we will come together at the Royal International Convention Centre in Meanjin, Brisbane, to connect with colleagues, thought-leaders, change-makers, researchers, and academics to learn new ways of being and doing, to exchange ideas and to find joy in the everyday as well as the unexpected.

We will focus on ideas and conversations that uplift and inspire us as early years educators, teachers and leaders and ask ourselves, "what brings me joy?", "what ignites my passion for my work with children?" and "what can I do right now to support the leaders of the future?"

The 2023 C&K conference is open to all early years professionals (birth to eight years) as well as researchers, academics, thought leaders and policymakers to attend.

Key Dates

Item	Deadline
Application to present opens	Friday, 10 February 2023
Application to present closes	Friday, 31 March 2023
Reviews completed - presenters notified	Friday, 28 April 2023
Program at a glance published on the C&K website	Friday, 12 May 2023
C&K Conference	Saturday, 29 July 2023

Apply to present

We encourage submissions from all members of the early years community with aspirational ideas that create joy, connection, curiosity and hope for the future of our work.

Early years specialists, researchers and thought-leaders with contemporary practice and knowledge of reconciliation, cultural diversity, gender identity and diversity, social justice, sustainability, technology, trauma-informed practice, inclusion and children's rights are encouraged to showcase their work and ideas.



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At C&K, we value and respect the depth of knowledge, capabilities, and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and encourage them to apply to present. It is our intention to centre these voices so that we can all continue to learn from and be guided by the perspectives of First Nations Peoples' experiences and insights.

This year, we also want to elevate the voices of C&K educators and senior teachers to showcase the exemplary, everyday practices that directly impact children, families, and communities, build strong learning communities and support C&K's commitment to continuous improvement.

We especially welcome and encourage submissions from early years professionals who haven't traditionally seen themselves as conference presenters but who are transforming our sector (and the lives of children) with their exceptional practice and knowledge.

Let's ignite the spark that will take us into a shared future together.

Conference aim

The aim of the conference is to create a space for reflection, learning and connection where participants can explore current research and contemporary practice as well as share the lived experience and learnings of their peers and leaders from within the early childhood sector.

The conference threads are framed broadly to enable presenters to explore multiple perspectives in research and practice.

Conference threads

- Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for children
- Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for equity
- Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for our sector and community
- Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for our profession and people

The big ideas

Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for children

We put children first – but what does that really look like? How do we share children's learning, their contributions and their ideas? How do we celebrate childhood? How do we elevate children's rights as active citizens, now and in the future?

How can new ideas surrounding the arts, technology, nature, pedagogical documentation, and teaching sustainability ignite change to help us build a bright future where all children can flourish?

This conference thread will connect attendees with new thinking around foundational skills as well as intentionality in pedagogy and practice.



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Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for equity

At C&K, we see a future where actively teaching and modelling equality, diversity, and inclusion are just the beginning. A future where children know their identities are recognised and respected and where they feel safe and secure.

How can we use AEDC data as well as lived experiences to make real social change around equity and equality while supporting the rights of children with diverse inclusion needs? What are the big ideas that can ignite new ways to rethink behaviour or support our culturally and linguistically diverse communities? Is gender a social construct that we can move beyond in our work with children? Can trauma-informed practices address participation barriers for all children?

In this thread, we will also reflect on the ways we connect with and elevate First Nations perspectives, knowledge, and ways of working as we centre the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for sector and community

We know that our sector and the communities we serve are diverse, resilient and sustainable. This thread will see us explore opportunities for social justice, advocacy, activism and education for sustainability. We encourage presentations that highlight projects and partnerships with families and initiatives that uplift our community.

Presenters, researchers and policymakers with aspirations and bright ideas for the future of our community and sector are encouraged to apply.

Reflect, Connect, Ignite – for our profession and people

As we look to the future, we want to hear from big thinkers with a clear vision of what is possible for our profession and how, individually and/or collectively, we may work towards this future.

How can we work towards a shared understanding of our professional identity? What lessons, or indeed opportunities, have the past few years provided us to re-envision our future?

What insights and new ways of thinking and doing can we explore about educational leadership? How can deep human connection impact our well-being and resilience as we continue to navigate change?

How can we work towards a shared understanding of our professional identity? What lessons, or indeed opportunities, have the past few years provided us to re-envision our future?

Where are the opportunities for joy or reframing mindsets for sustaining happiness? What new research can positively impact our professional identity and our lived experience of being early years practitioners in these times? Can we challenge long-held views or create social change through visual arts?

This thread will inspire us to think differently about our profession and connections as we look to the future.



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Format options for your presentation

Presentation

A content-driven session with one - three presenters.

Presenters are offered a 50-minute session, allowing opportunities for deep exploration of content and ample time for questions and reflections.

Interactive Workshop

A workshop session with a focus on “action/doing”.

Workshops may involve discussion, group exercises, hands-on activities, and the practical applications of concepts learned.

Presenters will facilitate a 50-minute workshop, inviting attendees to practice their skills or learn new ones.

Salon/ Roundtable discussion

A salon is held by an inspiring host, where people are invited to gather together to think, converse and share ideas around a particular topic.

These sessions will be a place for exchanging ideas, receiving and giving feedback, and sharing intellectual, interdisciplinary work.

Presenters will host a 50-minute salon, inviting attendees to engage in conversation and discussion around a guiding topic, subject, or questions.

As the emphasis is on interaction and collaboration, there will be no formal presentation, but the host may choose to display brief information via PowerPoint or similar to initiate and guide the discussion.

Flash talk/ snapshot

A flash talk is a short presentation or pitch of your research or project.

This format is perfect for sharing key information or big ideas quickly and succinctly.

Flash talks are a great way to introduce your work or whet people’s appetite for your research. Consider how much the audience already knows about the topic and how it relates to their everyday experiences, as well as:

- Why is it interesting?
- How did you do it?
- With whom did you carry out the work?
- Your research question(s).
- The significance/rationale for your work.
- A brief overview of data/methods and key findings.

Flash talk presenters will speak for 10 mins, 5 slides max (or a static poster).



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Application process

General Submission Information

- All abstracts must be submitted through C&K's online Call for Papers form on the C&K website. www.candk.asn.au/2023-ck-conference-call-papers-submission-form.
- The submission website and application form go live on Friday, 10 February 2023.
- Abstract Word limit is 300-500 words.
- Abstracts must be submitted as a PDF file.

[Click here](#) to access the 2023 C&K Conference website, read the full terms and conditions and FAQs, and then apply via the online form.

Applications must:

- ✓ Include a biography of presenters – 150 words for individual or 350 words for group presentations
- ✓ Include an abstract - up to 500 words
- ✓ Respond to the Conference themes
- ✓ Include a high-resolution image of the presenters or group (jpeg)
- ✓ Preferred audience/group size:
 - 30
 - 50
 - 50++



Selection criteria

Proposals will be reviewed and selected based on the creativity of approach and responsiveness to the conference theme and threads, as well as:

- description of the aims of the project, research questions or focus of inquiry
- strength of emphasis on project findings or how this can be applied to practice
- links to responding to children's learning and development needs through evidence-based initiatives that lift outcomes for children
- programs, resources and professional development that builds educator capability, supports inclusion or improves children's learning and development
- contribution to the early years education and care sector or profession
- thought-provoking contemporary perspectives.

Notification of acceptance

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of your proposal for presentations no later than Friday, 28 April 2023. We look forward to receiving your submission to present at the 2023 C&K Conference. If you have any queries, please contact education@candk.asn.au. See you in July!