



Getting it together for Australia's children

What role for parent/child centres?

Venue: Olympic Park, Melbourne
February 15 – 17, 2009



NIFTeY is an advocacy group established in 1999 which aims to highlight the importance of children's early years experiences for the rest of their lifecourse.

The Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH), based at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, is a national organisation that has been at the forefront of Australian research into early childhood development and behaviour for over two decades.

The Prime Minister raised the concept of parent-child centres prior to the 2020 summit. The **2009 NIFTeY/CCCH Conference**, through papers, panel discussion and posters, wants to explore issues relating to the Parent-Child Centre concept.



The NIFTeY 2009 Conference will explore the following themes:

- What is the Focus of Parent-Child Centres?
- Research and Evaluation of Parent-Child Centres
- The Workforce in Parent-Child Centres
- The Governance Model for Parent-Child Centres

Keynote Speakers include:

David Hawker, from the UK, Director of the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills for the Welsh Assembly Government

Having graduated from Wadham College Oxford in 1976 with a degree in French and German, David began his career as a teacher. After several years working for an examination board he became a senior professional officer for the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority before becoming the body's Assistant Chief Executive. Following the creation of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), David took up the position of Head of Curriculum and Assessment in 1997.

In 1999 David became Director of Education at Brighton and Hove and in 2002 was appointed Director of Children's Services at Brighton and Hove City Council. Under his leadership his directorate was awarded a top three-star rating by Ofsted in 2005. He also led the city's successful bid in 2003 to become a pathfinder Children's Trust.

In October 2007 David was appointed Westminster City Council's Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services. There David has been responsible for children's services, adult services, schools, education and housing. David was also in 2007 awarded a Professorship by the College of Teachers.

Margy Whalley, from the UK, Director of Research, Development and Training Base at Pen Green

Margy Whalley has directed integrated multi-disciplinary early years services in Brazil, Papua New Guinea and England over 36 years. She was the founding Head of the Pen Green Centre for Children and their families and has worked there since 1983. She has an MA in Community Education and a PhD which focuses on Leadership in Integrated Centres. She undertook a secondment to the Open University where she wrote course materials for parents wanting to increase their knowledge and understanding of child development. She was invited to be part of the Labour Party enquiry team into Under 5s education and care and was the Association of County Council's representative on the National Audit commission concerned with children under 5.

She is currently Director of the Research, Development and Training Base at the Pen Green Centre and is involved in research, training and consultancy work in this country and across Europe, New Zealand and Australia. The primary focus of the research base over the last 12 years has been the development of involving parents in their children's learning program and a leadership learning route for Heads and Deputies in integrated children's centres. The most recent research projects at Pen Green have focused on children's resilience and well-being, how parents can support children's emotional lives, and the development of effective provision for children 1-3 years through a Baby & Toddler nest. Margy's team also support children's centres and extended schools across Northamptonshire through action learning groups. Pen Green Research Base has developed an MA for working in integrated centres which is accredited by the University of Leicester and an MA in Leadership accredited through Middlesex University.

Margy was heavily involved in the development of the Early Excellence Centre program and was on the advisory board of the National Early Excellence Centre Evaluation program. Most recently she has been responsible for conceptualising, writing, developing and running the pilot National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL) program and supporting the first two years of the NPQICL roll out across England and the National Standards for leads of children's centres. She also undertook advisory work for the Children and Families directorate.

Greg Antcliff, from Australia, Registered Psychologist and Senior Manager with the Benevolent Society

Greg Antcliff is a registered psychologist and Senior Manager with The Benevolent Society where he manages a range of child, family and community services including child care centres, early intervention, child protection programs and home visiting services. In 2007, he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to investigate programs that integrate early learning and care for vulnerable children. Greg has worked as a learning difficulty consultant and psychologist specialising in developmental disorders and learning difficulties. He has extensive experience as a clinician, trainer and supervisor/manager in the early childhood field in both the government and non-government sectors. Greg is committed to providing quality services to children and families. He is on the Board of National Investment For the Early Years NSW, and also on the editorial committee of Developing Practice: the child, youth and family work journal.

Expression of Interest

- Please send me a registration brochure when it is available
- Please send me information on Sponsorship & Exhibition Opportunities

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