Early Years Awards 2010

Presentation Ceremony
27 October 2010

The Great Hall
National Gallery of Victoria International
Order of Proceedings

Formalities commence
Noni Hazlehurst
Master of Ceremonies

Welcome to Country
Aunty Diane Kerr
Wurundjeri Elder

Welcome to NGV International
Frances Lindsay
Deputy Director, National Gallery of Victoria

Minister’s address
Maxine Morand MP
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development

Award presentations
Better Access to Early Years Services
(see pages 2-3 for finalists)

Award presentations
Partnerships with Families and Communities
(see pages 4-5 for finalists)

Award presentations
Minister’s Awards

Formalities conclude
Noni Hazlehurst
Master of Ceremonies

Refreshments
Served in the Great Hall

Entertainment
Joining the Chorus Quintet
Presentation Ceremony

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Early Years Awards 2010.

Now in their fifth year, the awards recognise and reward the leadership, dedication and innovation of community partnerships toward improving the health, learning, development and wellbeing of all young children.

The Early Years Awards 2010 are a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the strength of Victoria’s world class early childhood services. With Victoria experiencing the biggest baby boom in a generation, the services you provide are more vital than ever.

Tonight’s finalists have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to early childhood services and a commitment to giving Victorian children the best possible start in life.

This year we received an exceptional response to our call for nominations, with more than 80 nominations received across the two categories of “Better Access to Early Years Services” and “Partnerships with Families and Communities”.

I congratulate all of the finalists and nominees on their achievements and commitment to Victorian children.

We know that children’s learning and development starts from day one and that a child’s early experiences have a profound impact on their future prospects. There can be few greater contributions we can make to our community than ensuring that all children get the very best start in life.

Maxine Morand MP
Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development
Finalists

Better Access to Early Years Services

Cardinia Shire Council
Cardinia Shire’s PlayStart Van

In partnership with:
Cardinia–Casey Community Health Service 
Connections Pakenham 
Yooralla 
DEECD Specialist Services 
Windermere Child and Family Services

Dallas Primary School and Kindergarten
Strengthening the Significant Years

In partnership with:
Victoria University 
Communities for Children

Darebin Community Health
Darebin Best Start – Promoting Oral Language In Kindergartens

In partnership with:
City of Darebin (Early Years and Children’s Services Branch) 
Darebin Best Start

Hume City Council
Hume Maternal and Child Health Outreach Model

In partnership with:
Broadmeadows Primary School 
Hume Early Years Partnership

Merriang Special Developmental School
Collaborate, Connect, Communicate: a collaborative approach to developing communication skills with students on the autism spectrum at the Early Years Campus of Merriang SDS.

In partnership with:
SCOPE

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Young Parents Program: An Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Service Initiative

Springvale Service for Children
An Integrated Service

In partnership with:
City of Greater Dandenong
Finalists

Partnerships with Families and Communities

**Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children’s Hospital**
From Research to Practice: Improving Infant Sleep Patterns and Maternal Mental Health

*In partnership with:*
DEECD Maternal and Child Health Team
Local Government Maternal and Child Health Services

**City of Ballarat**
Promoting Breastfeeding Project

*In partnership with:*
Ballarat Best Start
Ballarat Health Services
St John of God Hospital
Ballarat Community Health
Centacare Ballarat
Ballarat and District Division of General Practitioners
Australian Breastfeeding Association
City of Ballarat Maternal and Child Health
Maternity Coalition
Australian Catholic University

**City of Casey**
Casey Dads Matter

*In partnership with:*
Windermere Communities for Children
Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation
Chisholm Institute

**Corio Bay Senior College, Young Parents Access Program**
The Hub Initiative

*In partnership with:*
Corio Bay Senior College Child Care Centre Inc
Corio Bay Senior College Family Centre Inc

**Melton Shire Council**
Mum & Me...Making Early Years Services work within a Correctional Facility

*In partnership with:*
Dame Phyllis Frost Centre
Melton Best Start

**University of Melbourne Early Learning Centre**
The Early Years Coping Cards

*In partnership with:*
The Australian Council for Educational Research

**Wathaurong Aboriginal Cooperative, Mingo Waloom Aboriginal Best Start**
Koori Kinda Kit

*In partnership with:*
Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group
City of Greater Geelong
Elders
Geelong Kindergarten Association
Glastonbury Family Services
DEECD Koori Engagement Support Officer
Rosewall Best Start
Bethany Community Support
At the Early Years Awards 2010, a Minister's Award will be announced and presented by the Minister for Children and Early Childhood Development, Maxine Morand MP, in each of the two award categories. Each Minister's Award will recognise a partnership with a particular innovative focus and/or service response to the award category criteria.
The Kindergarten Cluster Management Best Practice Awards were introduced by the Victorian Government to recognise and celebrate excellence and innovation in the professional management of kindergartens by funded kindergarten cluster management organisations.

In 2010, awards were presented in four achievement categories to 12 kindergarten clusters throughout Victoria. These categories reflect the Kindergarten Cluster Management Policy Framework:

- Robust governance and support infrastructure
- Strong local partnerships
- Continuous system improvement
- Professional development and career pathways

Congratulations to the organisations outlined below. Each received $10,000 for the purposes of professional development for staff in the kindergarten cluster management organisation or at cluster managed services.

**Robust governance and support infrastructure**
Corangamite Shire
The Young Men's Christian Association of Ballarat Inc.

**Strong local partnerships**
Brimbank Preschool Association
Wodonga City Council
Banyule City Council
Best Chance (Child and Family Care Network Inc)

**Continuous system improvement**
Yarriambiack Shire Council
Goulburn Region Preschool Association

**Professional development and career pathways**
Early Childhood Management Services
Eureka Community Kindergarten Association
Hume City Council
Golden Plains Shire
Thank you!

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development wishes to thank the following individuals for contributing their time, enthusiasm and expertise to the judging panel of the Early Years Awards 2010.

Hon Sherryl Garbutt
Chair, Victorian Children's Council

Professor Gay Edgecombe
Member, Victorian Children's Council

Sue Harper
Member, Victorian Children's Council

Further information

The Early Years Awards recognise partnerships by organisations that contribute to improving the health, learning, development and wellbeing of children and their families from pregnancy, birth and early childhood development through transition to school (0-8 years).

Sponsored by the Victorian Government’s Best Start Program, the Early Years Awards are an opportunity to congratulate the organisations nominated and to showcase the positive outcomes of their innovative approaches towards improving the critical early years of a child’s lifelong journey.

For further information about the Early Years Awards, please visit the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development’s website: www.education.vic.gov.au/earlyyearsawards

Queries about the awards can be directed by email to: beststart@edumail.vic.gov.au or by phone to: (03) 9651 3412.