

The Early Years: From Research to Policy to Practice Seminar



Invitation

EVALUATING EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES: ARE WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

I am pleased to be able to invite you to this upcoming seminar, the third of our seminar series for 2006 presented by the Centre for Community Child Health with funding from The R.E. Ross Trust.

Over the past decade or so, we have seen many new initiatives aimed at rethinking how we deliver services to young children and their families. These include Commonwealth initiatives such as *Communities for Children*, State programs such as *Best Start*, and local government *Early Years Plans*. All of these aim to improve outcomes for young children and families. These initiatives take various forms, and no new dominant model has yet emerged. What we are still learning about is what early childhood experiences and services young children and their families need, and how we can best provide these.

To help us in this ongoing quest, we need to evaluate what we are doing to see if it having the kind of positive effect we intended. This seminar will focus on efforts to evaluate major early childhood initiatives in the United Kingdom and Australia. Participants will hear from those involved in these evaluations and be able to join in the debate about the implications for local services and the families they serve.

The keynote speaker will be Professor Edward Melhuish. Professor Melhuish is Professor of Human Development at Birkbeck, University of London and Visiting Professorial Fellow at the Institute of Education, University of London. Professor Melhuish is an internationally recognised expert in the study of child development and childcare and has extensive experience with longitudinal studies.

In addition, Professor Melhuish is Executive Director of the National Evaluation of Sure Start and his work undertaken to date has addressed many issues relevant to Sure Start including cognitive, language and behavioural development of young children and the role of family factors, home environment, childcare and pre-school experience upon children's development.

I hope you will be able to join us for this important and informative seminar, on **Friday 7th July, 2006, at the Hotel Y Conference Centre, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.** See the attached agenda and registration form.

Professor Frank Oberklaid OAM
Director, Centre for Community Child Health

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Date: *Friday 7th July, 2006*

Venue: *Hotel Y*

Conference Centre, 489 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Seminar Agenda

Chairperson: Dr. Tim Moore

8.30 – 9.00 ***Registration***

9.00 – 9.15 ***Welcome and Introductory Comments***

Dr. Tim Moore
Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health (CCCH)

9.15 – 10.15 ***Keynote Address:***

Professor Edward Melhuish
Professor of Human Development at Birkbeck,
University of London

10.15 – 10.30 ***Questions and Discussion***

10.30 – 11.10 ***Title: Evaluation of the Stronger Families & Communities Strategy: Issues and challenges***

Professor Ilan Katz
Acting Director, Social Policy Research Centre
University of New South Wales

11.10 – 11.30 ***Morning Tea***

11.30 – 12.10 ***The Australian Early Development Index:
Using local data to monitor developmental outcomes for children***

Dr. Sharon Goldfeld
Paediatrician and Researcher
Centre for Community Child Health

12.10 – 1.00 ***Questions and Panel Discussion***

1.00 ***Summary and Close***

Dr. Tim Moore
Senior Research Fellow, (CCCH)

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Seminar Registration Form

Registration closes: Friday 30th June, 2006

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Position Held: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$60.00 incl. GST
\$30.00 (RCH & MCRI Staff)

(Cancellation Policy: Full fee payable if less than 24 hours notice given)

Payment Details (please tick):

- Please invoice the above organisation
 Prepay with cheque made payable to The Royal Children's Hospital
 Credit card (please ensure all details are completed fully)

Card type: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Amount: \$_____

Card number
_____-_____-_____-_____

Name on card

Expiry date _____ Signature _____
_____/____/_____

Mail to:
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Fax to: 9345 5892
Email to: catherine.archer@rch.org.au

For enquires please phone 9345 6337

**This registration form becomes a tax
invoice upon receipt of payment**
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