



**EARLY  
CHILDHOOD  
INTERVENTION  
AUSTRALIA  
(VICTORIAN  
CHAPTER)**



## ***Program of Events***

***Featuring International Presenter  
Dr. Carl Dunst.***

***10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2010***

***Venue: Melbourne Convention and  
Exhibition Centre, South Wharf***

# Program of Events

**Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Victorian Chapter) is proud to announce the visit to Melbourne of Dr Carl Dunst whose work on Family Centred Practice has influenced so many fields of research & practice in family and childhood service delivery.**

## About the Speaker:



Dr. Carl Dunst is one of the preeminent international figures in the early childhood intervention field. He is the founder and co-director of the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute at Morgan State University in Morganton, North Carolina and the principal research scientist for the Family, Infant, and Preschool Program. FIPP serves families throughout western North Carolina with a variety of early education and family support programs. Dr. Dunst serves on the editorial board of the International Society on Early Intervention. He has been a creative and prolific researcher and author in the arena of family support, early childhood intervention, and services for children with disabilities and their families. His research and practice has included everyday child learning opportunities and the manner in which family and community activity settings provide contexts for meaningful and functional child learning and development. His research and practice has also included the study of capacity-building family-centered practices, and especially practices that actively involve parents in carrying out child rearing responsibilities.

## About the Venue:

**Melbourne Exhibition & Convention Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria**



Superbly located right in the heart of Melbourne on the edge of the Yarra River is the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC), comprising of the Melbourne Exhibition Centre and Melbourne's latest offering in architectural ingenuity - the Melbourne Convention Centre.

The superb central location of the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre means it is easily accessed by the city's roadways, freeways, public transport and on foot. The City Link automated tollway connects the MCEC to the airport in just 20 minutes.

The Centre is also serviced by six parking areas suitable for public, exhibitor and bus parking with additional parking available within walking distance of the centre.

## Public Transport

### Trams

- Route 96 - St Kilda to East Brunswick
- Route 109 - Port Melbourne to Box Hill
- Route 112 - West Preston to St Kilda

### Trains

Southern Cross and Flinders Street stations are both a short stroll from the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. These stations are major hubs for suburban, regional and interstate rail services. Directions and ticketing information is available from Centre staff.

For tram and train timetables see [www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au](http://www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au)

# Dr Dunst will be conducting events on the following topics.

## Evidence Based Practice

**Date: Tuesday 10th August, 2010**

**Time: 9.30am – 1.00pm**

**Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria**

One of the key challenges facing providers of child and family services in Australia and elsewhere is how to ensure that the services they provide are evidence-based. The usual way of testing whether an intervention is effective or not – through randomised-controlled studies – is virtually impossible to conduct in complex human services. In the absence of a clear consensus about what interventions are evidence-based, it is likely that there is a great deal of variability in the extent to which early childhood intervention services are using evidence-based practices.

In this seminar, Carl Dunst will present a practical definition of evidence-based practices that has proven useful for examining research studies with an eye on the implications for practice. In this definition, evidence-based practices are informed by research findings and demonstrate a relationship between the characteristics and consequences of an experience or opportunity that tell someone what they can do to produce a desired outcome. Rather than relying solely on randomised-controlled studies as the gold standard for assessing the effectiveness of interventions, this approach focuses on the functional relationship between the characteristics and consequences of intervention practices, and identifies the characteristics that make the intervention most effective. Using this approach, Carl and his colleagues have identified a number of evidence-based practices that have proven to be effective across a range of intervention types.

- **Half-day public forum** on forms of evidence – evidence-based practice, practice-based evidence, what early childhood intervention practices are evidence-based – with presentations by Carl Dunst and others plus time for debate and discussion.
- **Potential audiences:** ECIS professionals and services and DEECD policy staff, as well as universities and research institutions will be interested in the broader issues regarding different forms of evidence.

## Professional Development

**Date: Wednesday 11th August, 2010**

**Time: 9.30am – 1.00pm**

**Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria**

Professional development for early childhood intervention and other early childhood practitioners is a matter of ongoing concern. There is no systematic program in Victoria for inducting new staff or for providing ongoing professional development for the sector. There has, however, been a recent initiative to identify the professional competencies needed by ECI practitioners: on behalf of DEECD, ECIA has developed a statement of Early Childhood Intervention Practitioner Competencies. This project did not, however, consider the most effective ways of providing training in these competencies.

Based on a series of research syntheses and meta-analyses of adult learning methods and strategies, Carl Dunst and colleagues have developed an evidence-based approach to professional development called PALS (Participatory Adult Learning Strategy). This places major emphasis on both active learner involvement in all aspects of training opportunities and instructor/trainer-guided learner experiences. The use of PALS practices has been found to be associated with improved learner knowledge, use, and mastery of different types of intervention practices. This model of professional development is highly relevant to the development of strategies for implementing effective training programs and procedures.

- **Half-day seminar** on the nature and content of professional development for ECEC and ECIS staff – with presentation from Carl Dunst on the PALS model of professional development.
- **Potential audiences:** ECEC / ECIS training institutions and universities, government departments, ECEC / ECIS service managers.

## Early Childhood Intervention Service Models

**Date: Thursday 12th August, 2010**

**Time: 9.30am – 4.00pm**

**Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria**

Although the early childhood intervention sector has been in existence for three decades, there is still much variation in what form ECI services take and what practices are used. This state of affairs is partly a reflection of an ongoing evolution of philosophies and practices. However, in recent years, several good models for ECI services have been developed, and a consensus is emerging regarding the key features of service delivery.

One of the key contributors to this ongoing debate about the nature and aims of early childhood intervention services has been Carl Dunst. Over the course of the last 25 years, Carl has periodically reflected upon the aims, purposes and methods of early childhood intervention services. In his recent conceptualisations, he describes an integrated framework for practicing early childhood intervention and family support. This draws on diverse fields of inquiry that collectively provide an organising framework that explicitly aims to support and strengthen child, parent and family functioning. This model represents one of the most comprehensive and evidence-based models currently available to the ECI field.

- **One-day workshop** on models of ECI service provision – review of aims, practices and future direction - with keynote presentation from Carl Dunst, other presentations and culminating in panel discussion of future directions for ECIS in Victoria.
- **Potential audience:** The ECI sector – members of Early Childhood Intervention Victoria (ECIA) members as well as the other professional involved in the provision of various forms of early childhood intervention

## Family Centred Practice

**Date: Friday 13th August, 2010**

**Time: 9.30am – 2.00pm**

**Venue: Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, 1 Convention Centre Place, South Wharf, Victoria**

Carl Dunst has been a leading proponent of family centred practice for over 20 years. He has been instrumental in articulating key features of family centred practice, in developing ways of evaluating it, and in synthesising the evidence for its efficacy. This year will be 20 years since Carl's first visit to Australia, an apt time to reflect upon the development of family centred practice since then. Carl and colleagues have recently synthesised the evidence regarding the nature and effects of family centred practice, and have 20 years of evaluation data on a particular ECI program in North Carolina. The findings from these studies are most informative and will help us reflect upon where Victoria is heading with this most important aspect of service delivery.

Although family-centred practice has been a central philosophy of early childhood intervention and other services in Victoria for two decades, there are no procedures for training practitioners in the skills involved, and no systematic ways of monitoring service delivery to see if it truly reflects family-centred practices. Recognising these gaps, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Department of Human Services have recently contracted the development of a set of guides on family-centred practice for those working with children with disabilities and their families.

- **Half day seminar** reflecting on 20 years of family-centred practice in Victoria – where we have got to and where we are heading – with a keynote presentation from Carl Dunst focusing on clarification of the role of FCP, review of evidence, and implications for practice.
- **Potential audiences:** ECIS service providers, DHS disability service providers, early childhood education and care staff, school staff, DEECD/DHS departmental staff, universities and training bodies.



# Events with International Presenter Dr. Carl Dunst

## REGISTRATION FORM

*Registration closes: Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2010*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organisation: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary Requirements \_\_\_\_\_

| DATE & TIME  | EVENT                    | COST (incl GST)                    | TICK PREFERENCES                                     | TOTAL DUE |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> August, 2010<br>9.30am – 1.00pm                           | Evidence-based practice  | \$50 Subsidised*<br>\$120 Full fee | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |           |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> August, 2010<br>9.30am – 1.00pm                         | Professional Development | \$50 Subsidised*<br>\$120 Full Fee | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |           |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> August, 2010<br>9.30am – 4.00pm                          | ECI Service Models       | \$80 Subsidised*<br>\$150 Full Fee | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |           |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> August, 2010<br>9.30am – 2.00pm<br><i>(lunch provided)</i> | Family-Centred Practice  | \$80 Subsidised*<br>\$150 Full Fee | <input type="checkbox"/><br><input type="checkbox"/> |           |
| ECIA (VC) Membership   |                          | \$77                               | <input type="checkbox"/>                             |           |
| <b>TOTAL DUE:</b>  |                          |                                    |  |           |

*\*Subsidised rate available for ECIA (VC) Members, Victorian Early Childhood Professionals and Students.*

**Payment Details** (please tick):

- Prepay with cheque made payable to **Early Childhood Intervention Association (Victorian Chapter)**
- Credit card (please ensure all details are completed fully)

Card type:  Mastercard  Visa

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Mail to:**  
Cathy Archer  
Early Childhood Intervention Association (Vic)  
Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, Flemington Road, PARKVILLE VIC 3052  
**For enquires please phone (03) 9345 6337**

**Fax to:** (03) 9345 5892  
**Email to:** catherine.archer@rch.org.au

This registration form becomes a tax invoice upon receipt of payment  
Early Childhood Intervention Australia (Victorian Chapter) Inc.  
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Early Childhood Development

**AND**



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