

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION AUSTRALIA (VICTORIAN CHAPTER)
Annual Conference
Melbourne, 18th August 2006

Concurrent Paper

Gus: An early intervention story

**Dr Jane Collins
Di Chandler**
Elwyn Morey Centre

As a parent, Jane will talk about her reasons and experience in making a film about her journey through early childhood intervention services. Di will talk about her response to the film from a professional perspective - the journey of seeing how valuable the material was, and how it could be applied as an inspirational resource in the wider community.

Gus, an early intervention story is a short (seven minute) film about one family's experience of early childhood intervention (ECI).

It was made by Jane Collins, whose son Gus had severe speech and language disabilities. She made it soon after they left the early intervention program.

Initially she and ECI staff thought it might be helpful to new parents entering an early intervention program to hear about someone else's journey. Jane made the film because she thought it could be used as an adjunct to discussions with new parent groups.

When ECI staff, other professionals and parents saw the film it was suggested that the film might have broader uses.

ECIA(VIC) formed a reference group to explore possible applications for the film. They have written an accompanying booklet outlining some ways the film may be useful in various settings, such as parent support, or training of early intervention and mainstream education staff.

ECIA(VIC) will fund the distribution of the film and booklet to many early intervention centres and associated organisations. It will be available at low cost to others.

Jane Collins will discuss her reasons behind making this film and her feelings about it.

Di Chandler (Elwyn Morey Centre) will talk about her personal and professional responses to the film, and the potential she sees it has as a resource for those involved in and around early childhood intervention.

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