



FNECN

Far North Early Childhood Network

2014 Meetings:

Thursday 11 September 1:00 – 2:30

Attendance: Andrew McLean
Mike Friganiotis
Paula Castle
Chris McGibbon
Julia Brant
Suzanne Milhinch
Gillian Kolopelnyk

Reesa Sorin
Donna McCulloch
Patricia Stephens
Tanya Kunzler
Melissa Clarke
Irene Goodrich
Annabel Daunt Watney

Facilitator: Reesa Sorin

Notetaker: Andrew McLean

Item	Topic/ Presenter	Discussion	Action
Meeting began at: 1.07pm			
1	Welcome/ Business arising from last meeting – Facilitator	Last meeting minutes were shared in email with this month's agenda. Available on website.	
2	FNECN Report: - Network - Website and Facebook - Conference/ Forums	Annabel Daunt Watney: There was no meeting in July or August, so this is the first meeting since June. There were no financial items to report. Annabel will be away for the remainder of the year. Reesa Sorin: Over the coming months we will be looking at the best times and venues for meetings. It was suggested that an earlier time, such as 10:00 – 11:30 would be preferable over 1:00 – 2:30, and that 3:30 – 5:00 was still the best time for many members. We discussed alternating times again next year, and also possibly holding every second meeting at an early childhood venue (such as the November meeting at Wu Chopperen) so that members can become familiar with the various services. At this point we will continue to invite guest speakers to meetings. Andrew McLean discussed the website and Facebook page to which everyone is encouraged to contribute.	Donna McCulloch to replace Annabel Daunt Watney as FNECN treasurer to the end of the year. Send any information for the website (www.fnecn.org), that is relevant to FNECN members (eg. community partners events) to Andrew@fnecn.org Members are encouraged to contribute independently to our Facebook page via this link: Facebook.com/FNECN Irene Goodrich will be speaking about Reggio Emilia at the October meeting and Maria Matu about Wu Chopperen at the November meeting. Some possible speakers for next year include: Stephen Bell/ April Schipke, Leah Stevens.
3	Overview of Events - Partners' written	Mike Friganiotis gave a general overview of the services offered at Relationships Australia	

	<p>reports</p> <p>- Announcements</p>	<p>Chris McGibbon spoke about the ECTA conference in Cairns and commented how popular it was. There was 80 delegates and a very well-liked guest speaker in Maggie Dent. In her keynote, she spoke about children's social and emotional learning as being quite important in the early years among other things.</p>	
4	<p>Questions and Answers</p>	N/A	
5	<p>New Business</p>	N/A	
6	<p>Topic of the month/ Speaker: Changes in Education Queensland/ Stephen Bell, Assistant Regional Director</p>	<p>Stephen Bell, assistant regional director of Education Queensland, spoke about many changes to education in Queensland. A copy of his power point presentation will be posted on the FNECN website. Of particular interest to FNECN is the DETE restructure; now made up of Early Childhood, State Schooling, Training. A new directive:</p> <p>** Every child in the first three years of formal schooling receives a quality education through appropriate play based inquiry learning.</p> <p>** April Schipke is now Director of Early Childhood Education at Education Queensland. She manages two areas: regulation and compliance; and transition and partnerships for school entry. Stephen's work is mainly in the primary years. He stressed that it is now mandated that schools must work in partnerships with the early childhood sector, so this is a priority for Education Queensland.</p> <p>** Stephen also reiterated Education Queensland's early childhood education and care goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every family is supported by services that help meet their needs and abilities as child's first teacher - Every child has access to quality early childhood care and programs - Every Queensland child attends a quality kindergarten program that helps develop lifelong learners - Every child in the first 3 years of formal schooling receives a quality education through appropriate play based inquiry. - Education Queensland recognizes the importance of play as a pedagogy for children. <p>** Disability definition to now include learning difficulty and through National Partnership funding is available to make schools more inclusive of students with disabilities.</p>	
<p>7. Next meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled to be held at Manunda Library on 9 October at 3.30pm. Speaker will be Irene Goodrich.</p>		<p>Time: 3.30 – 5.00pm</p> <p>Venue: Manunda Library</p>	<p>Facilitator: Moniek de Kievith</p> <p>Notetaker: Reesa</p>
<p>Meeting closed at: 2.40pm</p>			