



FAR NORTH QLD

LOOPS

MARCH 2010

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Welcome to 2010 we hope that the year has started well for everyone in the region.

The Far North Queensland PSN met in Cairns recently to confirm the planning for the region for 2010.

This year will see a few things changing for the region. You should have received your information on the exciting news that we are going green and all flyers and regional *LOOPS* will now be sent to you at your preferred email contact. If you have not updated any of your information with us please call Bernadine on **07 4799 7982** or email us at **pscq@workforce.org.au** to ensure that we have the best contact details for you and your service.

The focus in 2010 for the regional workshops will include **Sustainability & the Environment, The Early Years Learning Framework in practice** and a look at **Turning Theory into practice**. The region will also be holding a series of workshops focusing on areas of **Music and Movement** based in Cairns.

For those of you looking for a more personal experience, the PSN have again allocated funding towards educators from the region to access the **Staff Exchange Program** (see the article inside from Fay Edwards for more information).

Or if you are someone looking for a real big picture experience of the impacts of workforce development and innovation check out:

workforce innovation conference 2010

20-21 May, Brisbane

An annual event that will bring together both Health and Community Services Industries to investigate and discuss workforce development and innovation.

<http://workforceinnovation.org.au/>

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Regional Roundup
- Frequently asked questions
- Exchange Program
- Noah's Ark Resources

NEED TO CONTACT PSCQ?

Phone
1800 112 585

Web www.pscq.org.au

Email
pscq@workforce.org.au

Your North Queensland
Project Officer is:
Peter Demopoulos

For more information,
check out the website at
www.pscq.org.au
or give us a call on the PSCQ
freecall number —
1800 112 585.



the staff exchange program

Would you like to **visit other children's services** across Queensland, **step out of your world** and experience **exciting new learning opportunities in different environments?** If yes, then PSCQ's Staff Exchange Program is for you!



In 2009, word spread about the benefits of the Program. Staff Exchange participants from across Queensland returned to their services excited by what they had seen, feeling refreshed, motivated and positive about the professional connections they had made.

The opportunity to learn by seeing, doing and talking is an invaluable experience.

How does it work?



The Staff Exchange Program is open to all educators employed in target services.* Prospective participants identify what they hope to gain from the visit, and a service is selected to meet their needs. The date and length of the visit (maximum 5 days) are all decided by the participant. PSCQ will organise the exchange and offer support towards the costs involved.

Participants **and** host services benefit through the opportunity to:

**engage in professional conversations take time to reflect
make the connection between theory and practice gather resources
develop professional networks share ideas and knowledge
build mentoring links**

"The visit to another service gave team members valuable resource information. Between the 3 staff members who went on the visit we came back motivated with new ideas, new resource contacts, recipes and a new network."

Tracey, Mackay Child Care Centre

"It was great to network with other centres and directors, and I gained lots of ideas to incorporate into our program."

Carmen, Director, Dysart Daycare

To be involved in this exciting program, services must have a current PSCQ membership and be based in a region where the regional Professional Support Network has committed funds to support this program.

***We are also looking for host services!
If you feel you work at a service of excellence in a particular area, head to the PSCQ website to download the Expression of Interest form for hosts.***



* (services receiving CCB are considered target)

For more information contact PSCQ

Ph: 1800 112 585 Email: pscq@workforce.org.au Web: www.pscq.org.au

Health and Community Services Workforce Council, Ground Floor, 303 Adelaide Street, Brisbane QLD 4000

Children's Services Professionals Exchange Program

News from the Exchange Desk

Good news travels fast! That's definitely the case with the Exchange Program!

2009 saw an increase in participants and host services as word spreads about the benefits of being part of the Staff Exchange Program. Participants from across Queensland have taken up the opportunity to travel near and far to visit other services allowing them to engage in professional conversations, make the connection between theory and practice, take time to reflect and to develop professional networks. Participants returned to their services excited by what they had seen, brimming with new ideas, feeling refreshed and motivated and positive about the professional connections they had made.

"Thank you so much for the opportunity to participate in this program. It was a wonderful experience to explore the difference between our structured routine/programming and the flexible/emergent approach taken by the host service. I came out of the experience with so many great ideas to incorporate into my own practices and environment. This experience has not only benefited myself but also other staff at my centre because I have been able to share my experience with them."

(Sara Khomenko – Group Leader ABC Gladstone)

"The visit to another service gave team members valuable resource information. Between the 3 staff members who went on the visit we came back motivated, with new ideas, new resource contacts, recipes and a new network."

(Tracey Welch – Director Mackay Child Care Centre)

2010 promises to be an exciting year for children's services professionals as we discover the changes the Early Childhood Reform Agenda will bring to our services. With so many options to explore, the Staff Exchange Program is a perfect opportunity to discover firsthand the journey other services have already been involved in around EYLF and Universal Access as part of this agenda.

Remember the Staff Exchange Program is open to any staff member (director, group leader, assistant, cook and administrator) employed in an eligible target service. As a participant you will discuss what you hope to gain from the experience with the Exchange Program Coordinator to assist in planning your visit. The Exchange Program Coordinator will recommend appropriate host services and organize all the details of your visit. To support participants in this program PSCQ will reimburse the cost of replacement staff as well as organise and fund all travel and accommodation costs, where necessary.

If you would like to know more about how to be involved in this program as a participant or a host service please visit the PSC website www.pscq.org.au, (you will find the information under the **Professional Support** tab) or contact Fay Edwards, Exchange Program Coordinator on, phone 0409638352 or email fayedwardsconsultant@hotmail.com

Flip over for a story from an exchange participant...

An Exchange Story...

Rachelle Returned from her exchange so excited and motivated by the experience, that I asked her if she would share it with all of you.

MY EXCHANGE TO CAIRNS

By Rachelle Munro (then Director Amaroo Early Childhood Centre)

Well, where to begin!

I was very fortunate to be offered a professional exchange to Cairns in November 2009. I was a director at a small community based centre in Townsville (Amaroo Early Childhood Centre) and our centre was beginning to embark on the negotiated emergent curriculum journey. I wanted to support my staff but needed some support for myself as well.

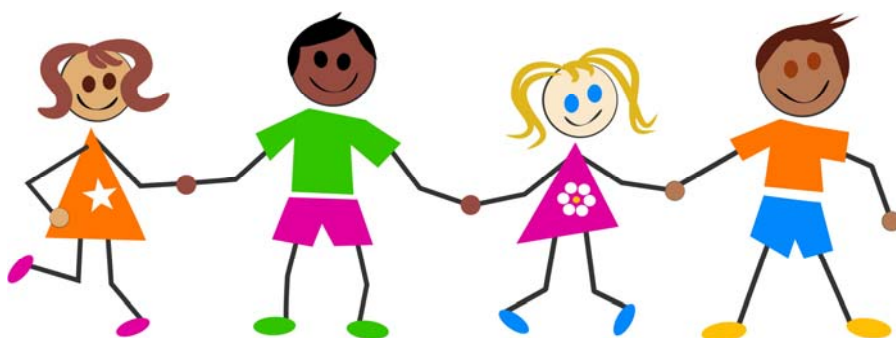
I spoke to Fay Edwards (the PSCQ Exchange Program Coordinator) about my need for support and I was advised to apply for the exchange program. Fay also recommended which centres would be most able to give me advice and practical examples. I elected to visit three centres in Cairns over a five day period.

I was a little apprehensive about leaving my centre (although the girls at Amaroo handled everything extremely well!) and it was a huge bonus that PSCQ reimbursed the centre for my replacement at Amaroo. I was also a little unsure of how the other educators would act toward me — would they be friendly or cranky that I would be taking up so much of their precious time?

I went to Cairns TAFE Community Child Care Centre on Monday, Smithfield Childcare Centre on Tuesday to Thursday and Balaclava Road Childcare Centre on Friday. **WOW!** I was treated so well at every centre, I honestly could not have expected any better treatment. Each director gave up their time and allowed me to ask questions and take photos of their centre. Every staff member made me feel comfortable and answered every query that I had. I made the huge connection about Negotiated Emergent Curriculum and documentation (I finally connected all of the dots!) and was able to see firsthand how meaningful this style of care is. I was so excited to come back to my centre and talk with the girls at Amaroo – my worries over how to ensure correct documentation (therefore no worries when accreditation rolls around!) was maintained, and still have a meaningful and child-initiated curriculum were greatly reduced.

I would strongly encourage anyone working in the children's services sector to explore the possibility of participating in a PSCQ exchange program; I had a fantastic experience that taught me to think outside the box, believe in my own abilities and to enjoy every learning moment.

Thank you Rachelle for sharing your story and I'm sure you would want to join me in thanking the wonderful directors and educators of the host services you visited for being so giving of their time and open to sharing.





Noah's Ark Children's Services Resource Unit
21 Crown Street, South Brisbane Q 4101
Ph: 07 3255 2082 | Email: resources@noahsark.net.au

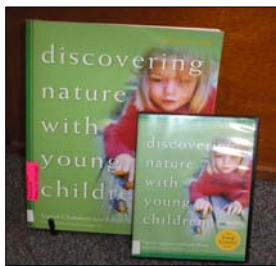


Two by Two into the Ark — Resource Library And Advisory Service for PSCQ

Great resources from the Library to support the outcomes within the Early Years Learning Framework. There are 5 outcomes within the framework and the resource list is endless. The selection of books below are just some examples of the resources available for:

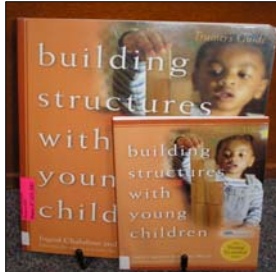
Outcome 4 " Children are confident and involved Learners"

Within this outcome we can reflect that "children use processes such as exploration, collaboration and problem solving across all aspects of curriculum". To achieve this Educators need to provide learning environments that are flexible and open-ended. The learning environments need to be at appropriate levels of challenges where children are encouraged to explore, experiment and take appropriate risks.



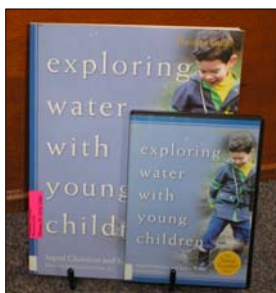
Discovering Nature with young children

The first unit in the Innovative Young Scientist series guides the educator through an inquiry based curriculum that builds on children's natural curiosity about the living world around them.



Building structures with young children

Looking at the science behind exploring, designing and building structures with young children, this resource guides children's explorations to help deepen their understanding of the physical science present in building structures.



Exploring water with young children

Unlocking the mysteries of water in many forms, *Exploring Water with Young Children* guides children's explorations to help deepen their understanding of the physical science present in water including concepts such as flow, shape and density.

All three resources are provide a virtual guided tour to the curriculum which serves as an indispensable handbook to use in introducing staff to the curriculum — from planning to implementation.

Services can call the Resource Library on 1800 112 585 and talk to staff about how we can support your service through the Early Years Learning Framework.

Remember that you can order your resources on line or call the staff at the library on 1800 112 585 to discuss your resource needs.





FAR NORTH QLD

LOOP

MARCH 2010

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where can I find a registration form?

Flyers for events will be sent to your service at your designated email address unless otherwise stated. Flyers can also be found on the website at www.pscq.org or call PSCQ on 1800 112 585

How do I register for professional development?

Please fill in all fields of the application table, making sure all names are written clearly and spelt correctly, as these names will be used for attendance certificates. If paying by credit card complete details and fax the application to 07 4799 7986. Do not post the original or a duplication of payment may occur. If paying by cheque or money order, fax your completed application to 07 4799 7986 then post the application form with payment to **H & CS WORKFORCE COUNCIL , Ground Floor, 303 Adelaide St BRISBANE 4000**

Please book early to avoid session cancellation due to lack of numbers or missing out on a place for a session. Many presenters have strict limitations on numbers attending and or cancellation policies.

Late registrations (Sent after the close date indicated on the flyer) may be accepted to fill sessions, please confirm registration with PSCQ prior to sending any details.

Note: Please check your service's eligibility for PSC training. If you are unsure, please contact PSCQ to confirm. Professional development may still be accessed, but a different fee will apply.

Do I need to send payment with registration?

Yes. Send your registration form with cheque, money order or credit card payment. **Certificates will not be issued without payment.** No payments can be accepted at the event.

My service requires an invoice before we can pay. What do I do?

The registration form is also a Tax Invoice.

My service requires a receipt. What do I do?

The registration form is also a Tax Invoice. A receipt will only be sent to you if requested at time of registration. The receipt can only be issued in the name of the person/service making the payment.

Will I receive confirmation?

Please consider that your application has been accepted unless we contact you upon receipt of your application to advise otherwise.

What are the fees?

All professional development is GST inclusive. Fees vary according to the length of the presentation and will be clearly identified on the event flyer.

Will sessions be cancelled?

PSCQ reserves the right to cancel or alter training arrangements, where necessary. Although every effort is made to ensure that sessions proceed as scheduled if required you will be advised of any cancellation or alteration.

I have not received my certificate?

PSCQ will not issue certificates until payment has been made and signed attendance sheets have been sighted from presenters. **Always remember to sign in when attending an event.**

Can I get a refund?

If you are sick or unable to be released from your service, you can nominate another person to attend in your place but you will need to advise PSCQ of their details so certificates of attendance can be altered. If you wish to cancel completely, you must tell us by phone, email, fax or mail no later than seven (7) working days in advance, indicating whether you wish to receive a refund or credit for use at a future session. **If you cancel with less than 7 working days notice or simply do not attend, refunds will not be given.**

Is food provided at training?

In the Far Nth Qld region the following will apply.

Full day courses have lunch and morning tea available. Half day courses receive morning or afternoon tea. Evening workshops will have a light supper available. Please notify PSCQ on your registration form if you have any special dietary-related needs.

How do I find the venue?

The name and address of the venue will be indicated on the flyer. Those registered to attend will be notified of any changes that may occur.

Is parking available?

Venue parking capacity is subject to each venue, day and time. If you are concerned you may like to contact the venue prior or always leave plenty of time before start time to ensure you can arrive on time.