**Report on PDA General Meeting**

Early in Term 3 PDA held a General Meeting for our members and other interested people to find out more about the recommendations from the report generated by the Early Childhood Service Inquiry held at the end of 2004. The report, "The Virtual Village: Raising a child in the New Millennium. Report of the Inquiry into Early Childhood Services, January 2005" was launched at the Our Children the Future Conference but took a lot longer to reach preschools and schools through the courier system. DECS is now writing a response to the Governments report, a four year plan to implement recommendations as well as carrying out plans to open 10 Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDC) by June 2006. This is certainly a fast-paced and interesting time and one which is directing a large amount of resources to early childhood services.

The Preschool Directors Association’s is in a position to ask questions and gather information from members and DECS such as:
- Are there enough resources to create 10 HIGH QUALITY Early Childhood Development Centres?
- What will a high quality early childhood development centre look like?
- Will the leaders of these centres be adequately resourced and remunerated to lead and manage an ECDC?
- How can strong early childhood educational leadership be guaranteed as a fundamental component of a multi-disciplinary service for children?
- What indoor and outdoor learning environments will be created in an ECDC?

If you have any more questions or a response to one of these please contact PDA. It is essential for our association to be well informed about our members’ views during these changing times.

**The Office of Early Childhood Services**

This is the name of a new office which has been created in DECS following a refinement of the corporate structure. **Stephanie Page** is acting in the position of Executive Director of the Office of Early Childhood Services.

There are four groups within this office:

- **Children’s Services**
  - Chris Shakes

- **Licensing and Standards**
  - Karen Lamont

- **Learning Improvement and Support Services**
  - Helen Wildash (Act)

- **Early Years Curriculum**
  - Gerry Mulhearn

The office of Early Childhood Services is one of 7 now within DECS. At the same level as Early Childhood Services are the Offices of Business Improvement and Strategic Financial Management, People and Culture, Service Delivery, Primary, Middle and Senior Secondary Services, Strategic Policy and Planning and Aboriginal Education and Employment.

**Mark this date in your diary**

**November 11th, 2005**

5-00pm to 8-00pm

PDA will be sponsoring the special Centenary of Kindergarten drinks party at the Education Development Centre.

We hope to see you all there!

Look out for your invitations in the courier.

**100 years of Kindergartens in S.A.**

The Preschool Directors Association is planning to celebrate the 100 years of Kindergartens in South Australia with many events. Thanks to those centres that have sent in applications for a small PDA grant to support their celebrations.

If you are planning to mark this event in some way please send a photo, or small report, that we may include in a later newsletter to share with other members.
National Literacy and Numeracy Week
Each year the Federal Government grants money to schools (and some kindergartens in SA) who apply to support a variety of activities during National Literacy and Numeracy Week. In addition there are awards for outstanding Literacy and Numeracy practice across the country. The South Australian winners of the National Literacy and Numeracy Week Awards have been announced. (see below)

Congratulations to Port Pirie Community Kindergarten
They won the $2000 Childcare and Preschool Innovation Award as part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week and were congratulated by Minister Lomax-Smith in a recent news release.

Child Protection
Barb Soult, Director at Adelaide Meithke Kindergarten, is the Preschool Directors Association representative for Child Protection. She is interested to hear your feedback on the recently released DRAFT Guidelines for Protective Practices for Staff Interaction with students.

Please send feedback on this draft document to Barb through the preschool directors' association chat-line.

cpda-talk@nexus.central.sa.edu.au

CS News
Early Childhood Australia (formerly AECA) has started a free, weekly, online newsletter for the early childhood sector, providing a broad range of up to date news and info. To register to the newsletter, send an email to office@csnews.com.au

More info at www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au

I encourage everyone to subscribe – the more informed we are about our field of expertise puts us in a stronger position to be an advocate for our work.

Annual General Meeting 2006
In the past our AGM date has clashed with various districts meeting or conferences days which we would like to avoid as much as possible at the beginning of the year. Can you please let us know, as soon as you know, about any planned days that may impact upon preschool directors attending our AGM during Term 1, 2006? It was great to have directors from the South-East and Riverland districts at this years AGM and it would be fantastic to have as larger groups as possible at our AGM in 2006. Do you have any ideas for an interesting speaker for our next Annual General Meeting?

Please let a committee member know if you have a good suggestion.

2005 Committee Meetings
Preschool Directors Association
4-30pm to 6-00 pm

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<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>12th September</td>
<td>EDC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>24th October</td>
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<td>Term 4</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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All members are welcome to attend any committee meeting.

Have you heard about the next Early Childhood Australia Conference?

Kaleidoscope – Changing images of childhood

www.eca2005.com
Brisbane 28th Sept. to 1st Oct. 2005

Monday morning quote
I am running low on good quotes to send out to members on the chat-line. If you have any good ones please send them to Victoria at admin@blackwoodkgn.sa.edu.au