



MEDIA RELEASE: Monday 1st July 2024

2024 Mallee Early Years Conference to shine light on diversity and equity

Presentations, professional development and workshops focusing on diversity and equity in early years settings are on offer at the 2024 Mallee Early Years Conference.

Tickets are on sale now for the Conference, which will be held at SuniTAFE's Mildura campus on Thursday August 8th.

Formerly known as the Mildura Early Years Conference, this event brings together professionals, educators and stakeholders from across the early years and family and community service sectors.

Mallee Family Care's Manager Early Years Rhonda Smith said the Conference was an opportunity for people in the Mallee working with children aged 0-8, to exchange knowledge, insights and best practices.

"We are delighted to have acclaimed neurodivergent consultant Christina Keeble presenting the keynote address at this year's Conference," Ms Smith said.

Christina has worked in specialist education and disability since 2002, teaching, working with and supporting neurodivergent children and their families.

Christina's Autistic and ADHD (AuDHD) lived experience and professional expertise has been sought after by schools, families, early childhood centres, allied health, disability and government organisations.

Ms Smith said four engaging workshops, offering practical and informative insights into diversity and equity in local early years settings were also part of the program.

"Attendees can take their pick from Workshops about the creative process through an art therapy lens; partnering with families of a refugee background; gender equity; and, and the value in collaborating with parents, communities and professionals to support children to thrive," she said.

"Everyone working in the early years sector is aware of the value diversity and equity adds in helping children and families feel welcome and to develop a sense of belonging."

Diversity and Equity are also a Child Safe Requirement, meaning agencies must ensure every child is supported to fully participate in their service and that any barriers to participation are consciously addressed using a strengths-based approach.

"It is hoped that this year's Conference empowers attendees to use a strength-based approach to diversity and inclusion in their settings across the Mallee region."

Tickets to the 2024 Mallee Early Years Conference are on sale now until 25 July at bit.ly/MEYC2024



Media enquiries

Mieka Symes | Communications Manager

T: 03 5023 5966 M: 0439 850 638

E: misymes@malleefamilycare.com.au



For more information call Sarah Darling or Nicole Woods at Mallee Family Care on 5023 5966 or email training@malleefamilycare.com.au

The Mallee Early Years Conference Working Group consists of local early years professionals who volunteer their time from various organisations across the region including Sunraysia Community Health Services, CatholicCare Victoria, Mallee Accommodation and Support Program, SuniTAFE, Mildura Rural City Council, Shine Bright and Mallee Family Care.

ENDS



Media enquiries

Mieka Symes | Communications Manager

T: 03 5023 5966 M: 0439 850 638

E: misymes@malleefamilycare.com.au