

INSPIRING FUTURE GENERATIONS

# AGECS

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2027

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The Association of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies  
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The Association of Graduates in Early Childhood Studies would like to acknowledge both the Bunurong/Boon Wurrung, and Wurundjeri people as the Traditional Custodians of the Lands on which we are located in Melbourne. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We also acknowledge the Aboriginal language groups across all of Victoria, whose lands we provide funding for specific projects around Early Childhood Education. We acknowledge their history, their people, and their stories. As an Association we will work together for reconciliation, a process that starts with the acknowledgement of true Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures of Australia and will always value the contribution to our community and culture, the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families, communities, and their stories.

## A Message from the President

As the President of AGECS I am really proud to have been able to lead the council to the completion of the 2023 Strategic Plan. As we headed into our 100th year as an organisation, it seemed an opportune time to consider how the organisation could best serve our early childhood community. Early childhood educators had really done it tough during Covid-19 times and the members on the council felt that we needed to ensure that we were supporting the educators in ways that were helpful. To do this we needed to be clear in what we could offer as a small volunteer organisation with limited support from our contractors. It is not surprising that once our highly experienced group of volunteers on the council (with more years' experience in early childhood than any of us would care to admit) started working on this plan, one thing was clear for us, quality early childhood programs change lives. In order to ensure that high quality programs are offered, we need to invest in our early childhood professionals to ensure that they are able to thrive, and families, children and communities will be given the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a committed group of women, from whom I have learnt a great deal. Our council who all contributed was comprised of early childhood lecturers, educational leaders, PSFOs, teachers and leaders in the field. Our document is stronger for their insights and the contributions from our Fellowship Advisory Committee and our RAP Committee Ambassadors. I thank everyone sincerely for their hard work.

As an organisation we are now clear on our future directions, and we are in a place to be able to better support educators in the field. I am excited to see what 2024 brings.

**Sarah O'Donnell**

President 2022-23

## **Our statement**

We believe early childhood professionals change lives.

We believe that investing in early childhood education and care changes the life trajectories of children, families, and communities. Our mission is to

### **Advance Empower Resource**

so that early childhood professionals can thrive.

## **Our vision of the future**

AGECS is a leader in advancing, empowering, and resourcing early childhood professionals because of our commitment to being engaged, connected and responsive to education and care in the early years.

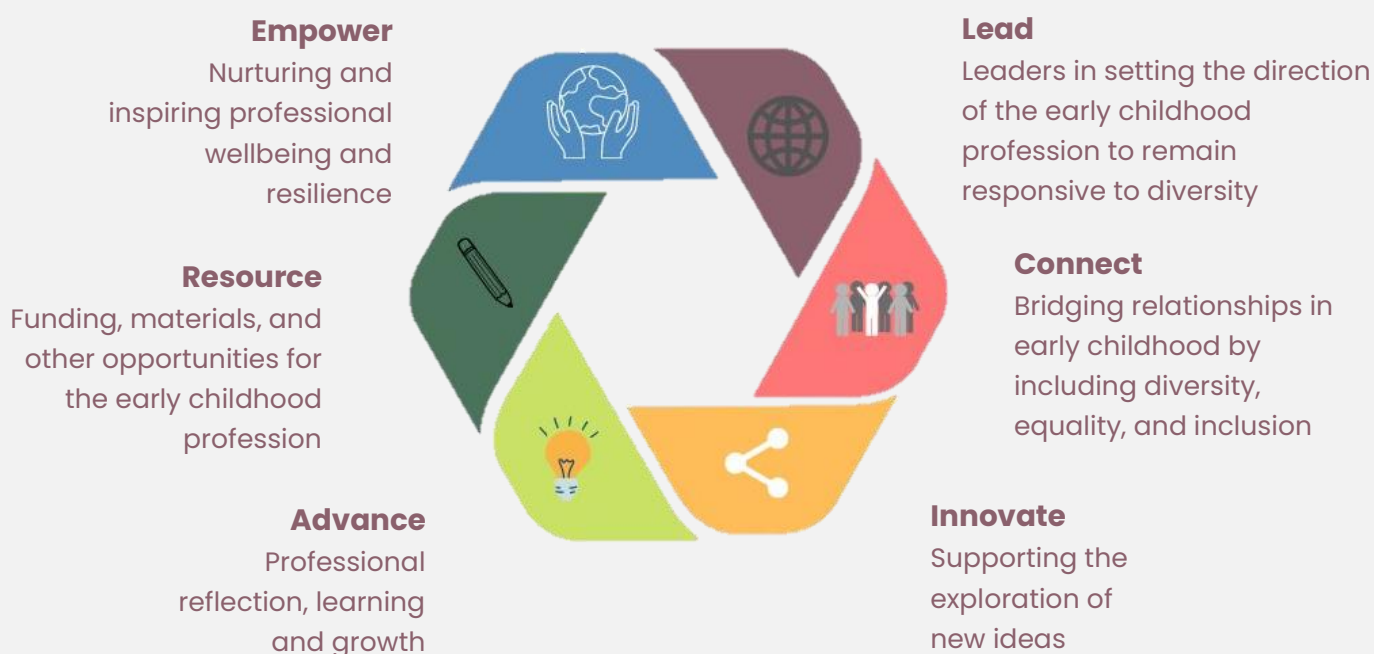
## Strategic Themes and Values

Our investment in early childhood professionals through these strategic themes and values will ultimately contribute to improving the lives of children, families and communities.

AGECS core values are the beliefs and behaviours that are considered non-negotiable, and that apply to every single person within the organisation. They guide and inform a strategic plan.

AGECS has a commitment to Reconciliation by strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

Our strategic goals are detailed on the proceeding pages.



## **Serving our community**

Strategic Goal: To be an outstanding early childhood association that understands and responds to the needs of its members.

- To continually strive to engage with our members, seeking their views, thoughts, needs, expectations, and experiences.
- To have a membership that represents the diversity of early childhood professionals.
- To gather and use member experiences and voices to plan and guide our work.

## **Advancing professional knowledge and practice**

Strategic Goal: To advance knowledge and practice of early childhood professionals.

- To provide accessible and relevant opportunities for members to explore, challenge and expand their knowledge and practice.
- To continue to explore and provide new and innovative approaches to advance knowledge and practice for members.
- To provide opportunities for members to practice and embed their knowledge in a way that meets their needs and context.
- To collaborate with key partners to share the knowledge and experience of others.
- To ensure our approaches, opportunities, services and resources reflect and respect the diversity, needs and expectations of our members.

## **Empowering early childhood professionals through a focus on professional wellbeing**

Strategic Goal: To be an outstanding early childhood association that understands and responds to the needs of its members.

- To offer initiatives that strengthen professional wellbeing for members.
- To promote and support members' resilience and morale.
- To inspire members in their professional growth.

## **Accessible and innovative resources for early childhood professionals**

Strategic Goal: To provide accessible and innovative resources to support ongoing advancement as a professional

- To provide an accessible and utilised Fellowship Program for Leadership and Change.
- To offer responsive, accessible, innovative, and utilised grants or programs.
- To provide accessible and engaging information that supports high quality practice and meets the needs of members.
- To support and initiate projects which assist early childhood education and care.
- To share outcomes and stories that result from our resourcing to promote and encourage membership and applications for grants.



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