

# preci

Professionals & researchers in  
early childhood intervention

2024-2025

## Annual Report



[preci.australia@gmail.com](mailto:preci.australia@gmail.com)

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# PRECI Profile

Professionals and Researchers in Early Childhood Intervention (PRECI) is an Australian research-to-practice network focussed on outcomes for young children with developmental disabilities.

PRECI was established as a not-for-profit public company limited by guarantee in June 2022.

PRECI is an ACNC registered charity. PRECI is the national peak body for professionals and researchers working with children with developmental concerns, delays or disability, and their families.

# Vision Statement

Excellence and equity in services for children with developmental disabilities, or at risk of developmental delays, and their families.

## PRECI Goals



Connect and  
Support



Promote  
collaborative  
research



Translate evidence to  
practice



Promote policy  
development and  
implementation

# Our Purpose

To lead Australian early childhood intervention research, knowledge translation, quality practice, and policy for young children with developmental disabilities, and their families.

PRECI has been formed to:

- Provide a national network connecting early childhood intervention practitioners and researchers with a focus on supporting collaborative research, knowledge sharing and peer support.
- Provide early childhood intervention professionals, community organisations, researchers, higher education institutions and policymakers with an authoritative source of information about best practice in early childhood intervention.
- Identify, develop, promote, and raise awareness of advances in effective models of service delivery to ensure consistent implementation of best practice for young children and families.
- Promote a national approach to coordinated and comprehensive pre-service, in-service, and post-graduate training opportunities for professionals working with children with developmental delay and disability, and their families and related mainstream services, on contemporary and evidence-informed practices.
- Develop a national research framework and conduct research projects to advance and inform early childhood intervention within Australia.
- Promote interdisciplinary collaborations to ensure advances in research and translation of research into practice.
- Provide nationally coordinated and timely responses to federal policy, funding, and service delivery guidelines to support consistent contemporary practice in early childhood intervention.

# Our People

Our Board includes early childhood intervention service practitioners, CEOs, researchers, academics, and consultants with many decades of experience in the field.

Further details about our team can be found on our [website](#).

## PRECI Executive Team



**Chair**  
**Denise Luscombe**



**Deputy Chair**  
**Dr Kerry Bull**



**Secretary**  
**Assoc. Prof. Christine Johnston**



**Treasurer**  
**Paula Buttigieg**

# PRECI Directors



Dr Anoo Bhopti



Kerry Dominish



John Forster



Megan Fox



Dr Susana Gavida



Susan Gibson



Dr Tim Moore



Trish Wachtel

# Director attendance\*

| Name                     | Position                    | Dates acted<br>(if not whole year) | Meetings<br>attended 24/25 |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr Anoo Bhopti           | Director                    |                                    | 80%                        |
| Dr Kerry Bull            | Secretary<br>Vice Chair     |                                    | 90%                        |
| Paula Buttigieg          | Treasurer                   |                                    | 70%                        |
| Kerry Dominish           | Director                    |                                    | 100%                       |
| John Forster             | Director                    |                                    | 40%                        |
| Megan Fox                | Director                    |                                    | 90%                        |
| Susana Gavidia-<br>Payne | Director                    |                                    | 60%                        |
| Susan Gibson             | Director                    |                                    | 70%                        |
| Dr Christine<br>Johnston | Public Officer<br>Secretary |                                    | 90%                        |
| Denise Luscombe          | Chair                       |                                    | 100%                       |
| Dr Tim Moore             | Director                    |                                    | 70%                        |
| Trish Wachtel            | Director                    |                                    | 70%                        |

\*10 meetings held between July 2024-June 2025

# Chair report

## **Introduction**

It is with great pride that I present this report marking PRECI's third year of operation as the national peak body representing researchers and professionals within the early childhood intervention (ECI) sector.

Throughout the past year, PRECI has continued to strengthen its organisational foundations, enhance its visibility, and consolidate its position as a leading voice within the sector. Building on the momentum established in our second year, we have maintained a strong focus on bridging the gap between research and practice, facilitating knowledge translation, and promoting the implementation of evidence-informed ECI best practice.

## **Governance and Leadership**

This reporting period has presented both opportunities and challenges. The Board of Directors has again demonstrated exceptional commitment and resilience, continuing to operate as a working Board and dedicating substantial time and expertise to ensure the effective functioning of the organisation.

The dedication of our volunteers and the engagement of professionals who have participated in PRECI's webinars, workshops, and consultations have been invaluable. Collectively, these efforts have strengthened our capacity to pursue our vision of excellence and equity in services for children with developmental disabilities, or at risk of developmental delay, and their families.

## **Sector Collaboration and Engagement**

A key highlight for the year was PRECI's role as a principal partner in the University of Melbourne consortium undertaking the Department of Social Services' independent review of best practice in early childhood intervention. This project provided a valuable opportunity for PRECI to re-engage with the sector, consulting with practitioners and professionals to inform the development of the final Framework and to contribute to the creation of supporting tools and resources for implementation.

# Chair report

## **Sector Collaboration and Engagement continued.**

Facilitating stronger professional connections across the field has created a renewed sense of collaboration and optimism within the sector. PRECI has continued to expand its network of key stakeholders across ECI, early childhood education, health, and education sectors, fostering shared understanding and alignment of best practice approaches.

## **Membership and Communications**

The introduction of individual memberships, aligned with the PRECI Conference, represented a significant organisational milestone. Our online presence has also continued to grow, with steady increases in engagement across social media platforms.

The Board has sustained delivery of a comprehensive webinar program featuring both national and international presenters and has continued to expand the Research Snapshot library on the PRECI website. The monthly PRECI Connect newsletter remains an important communication channel, complemented by the introduction of a dedicated member newsletter this year. To further extend our reach, PRECI has launched a Podbean channel, providing an additional medium for sharing research, knowledge, and sector insights with professionals, researchers and families.

## **Projects and Partnerships**

PRECI was successful in securing a Lotterywest grant to support the development of a learning management system and enable the purchase and trial of the Torsch Coaching Platform. This initiative will strengthen PRECI's capacity to assist the sector in embedding evidence-informed practice with fidelity. Our partnerships with tertiary institutions have also continued to expand. PRECI remains a project sponsor for the Monash University Occupational Therapy Participatory Community Program and has extended its involvement to include five Curtin University Professional Honours projects. These collaborations provide valuable opportunities for students to engage directly with the ECI sector and contribute to peer learning. Final project deliverables are available on the PRECI website.

# Chair report

## Looking Ahead

As PRECI moves into its fourth year, the organisation is well-positioned to continue advancing its mission. While significant work remains to be undertaken, the solid foundations established—together with the partnerships, networks, and credibility developed over the past three years—ensure PRECI is poised to make a lasting and meaningful contribution to the sector.

## Acknowledgements

I extend my sincere appreciation to the PRECI Board for their ongoing professionalism, passion, and commitment. Their dedication to providing strategic leadership and fostering a collaborative environment has been instrumental in enabling PRECI's continued growth and progress toward the fulfilment of its purpose.

*D Luscombe*

Denise Luscombe  
Chair



# Deputy Chair report

PRECI has continued to contribute to state, territory and national policy by advocating for high-quality and equitable services and support for children with developmental concern, delay or disability based on the best available evidence. We advocate by listening to our members through daily interactions to understand the issues that are important to them, and by further developing relationships with peak bodies, advocacy organisations, and federal and state/territory policy makers. We have been active participants in consultations on policy development and have representation on key advisory groups. We responded to the Draft List of NDIS Support with a focus on the needs of children and young people with disability or developmental delay. We provided a response to the 2025-2026 Annual Pricing Review to raise our concerns about several of the recommendations that appear to be in contradiction to providing children with disability with the most effective support and ensuring the NDIS is as effective as possible. PRECI also developed a discussion paper on Foundational Supports for young children with developmental concerns, delays or disability, and their families to assist in discussions currently taking place in State and Territory and Federal governments.

PRECI has also been ensuring effective governance by reviewing our constitution and internal policies which are now available on our website.

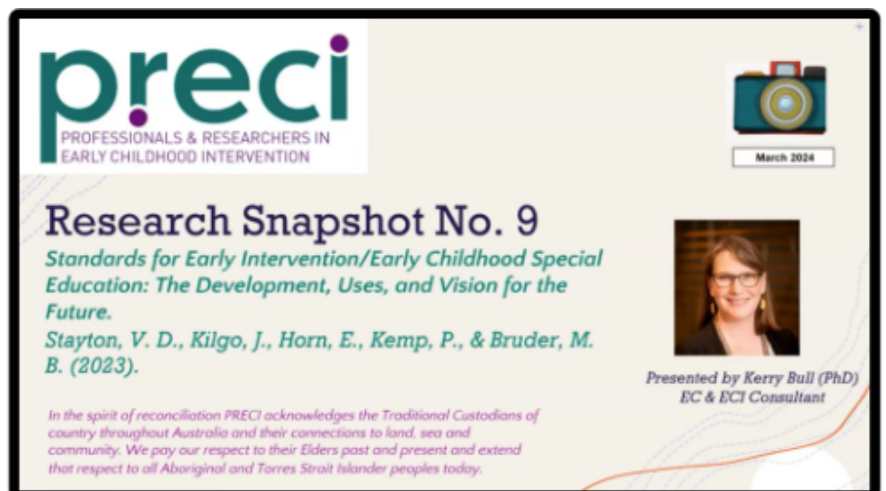
The PRECI board directors have recently developed succession planning activities to ensure we prepare for transitions, reduce disruption and maintain our strategic momentum. One of the activities is a Board Mentor program designed to support interested PRECI members to participate in several meetings, engage in a reflective discussion with a board member following the meeting, and for some who are interested, contribute to subgroup activities. One of the aims of the program is to provide appropriate opportunities and support for professionals and researchers to make an informed decision about whether they want to nominate for the Board in the future. With seven enthusiastic and knowledgeable mentees in the current program, we're feeling positive about this approach. The mentees are providing feedback on how we might develop the mentor program in the future.

# Deputy Chair report

It's been a pleasure and privilege to be one of the inaugural directors on the PRECI Board. The dynamic team are fabulous collaborators with extensive experience and expertise and a steadfast commitment to positive outcomes for children and families. In particular, I'd like to thank Denise Luscombe (Chair) for leading with energy, decisiveness, integrity and resilience.



Dr Kerry Bull  
Deputy Chair



# National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention



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PRECi are delighted to be partners in a consortium to independently review best practice in early childhood intervention and develop a new Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention. This framework will help to ensure children growing up in Australia with developmental concerns, delay or disability, and their families, are well supported and have every chance to thrive.

This Best Practice Framework relates specifically to Action Item 2.4 of the Early Childhood Targeted Action Plan (TAP), which is overseen by the Department of Social Services and is one of five TAPs under Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.

Funded by the Department of Social Services, the consortium is led by Professor Christine Imms of the University of Melbourne with other partners including Murdoch Children's Research Institute, SNAICC - National Voice of our Children and Children and Young People with Disability Australia.



# National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

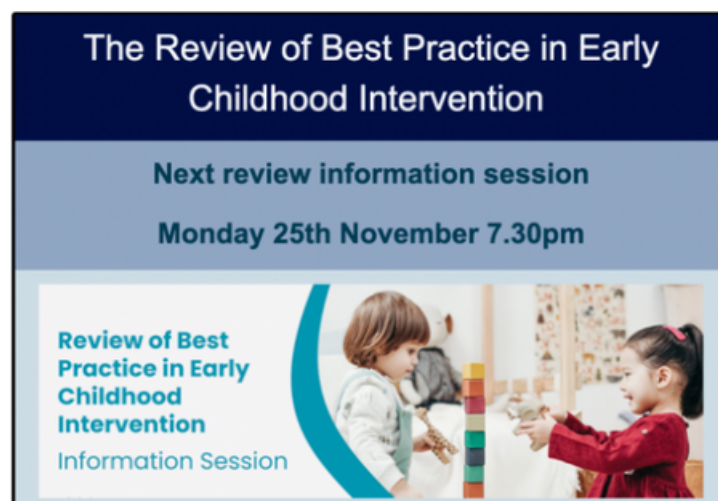


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Although involved in all key deliverables, PRECI led the consultations with ECI practitioners as well as other key professionals involved in the journey of families into and transitioning out of ECI. PRECI consultation reports can be found [here](#).

PRECi also led the development of the tools and resources related to the Principles of the Framework using a consultative iterative process.

For further information visit our [Project page](#).



# Project Roadtrip

Start 30 August 2024



**Western Australia**

Perth, Karratha, Broome, Kununurra

**Northern Territory**

Darwin, Alice Springs



**Queensland**

Cairns, Brisbane



**New South Wales**

Sydney



**Tasmania**

Launceston, Hobart



**Victoria**

Melbourne



**South Australia**

Adelaide



**Australian Capital Territory**

Canberra



Finish 19 September 2024

# National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention

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## Scenes from the roadtrip



Perth



Darwin

Adelaide



Melbourne



# Pyramid Model

## Western Australian trial

PRECI is pleased to be working with Professor Mary-Louise Hemmeter from Vanderbilt University and the Pyramid Model Consortium to trial the roll-out of program-wide implementation of the Pyramid Model.

Two WA Early Childhood Education and Care organisations are participating: Wanslea and The Y. Their staff have been trained in the Pyramid Model focussing on children's social-emotional development, practice-based coaching and the TPOT.

We are looking forward to the next steps in supporting implementation of the model throughout 25/26.



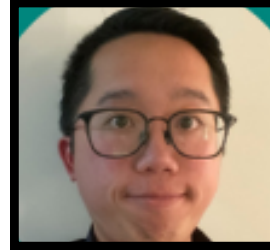
Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.  
From National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations at the University of South Florida,  
[www.challengingbehavior.org](http://www.challengingbehavior.org). Reprinted with permission.

# PRECI Volunteers



**Michelle Goldsmith**

Administrative Assistant



**Hendrix Lui**

Website Assistant



**Emily Mischlewski**

Research Support



**Louise Summerton**

Graphic Designer



1453 subscribers in 3 years

Subscribe to PRECI Connect via our [webpage](#)

# Engagement snapshot 2024-2025



169 Members



Australian and  
international  
members



1453 subscribers to  
PRECI Connect  
Newsletter



1203 webinar  
registrations for 7  
webinars

Not a member? Visit [preci.org.au](https://preci.org.au) to join!

# Engagement on Socials

Visit [preci.org.au](https://preci.org.au) to join our social media!



Facebook  
515 followers



Humanatix  
755 followers



Instagram  
71 followers



Linkedin  
1102 followers



YouTube  
58 subscribers

# PRECI Podcasts



Access via the PRECI website or your favourite podcast player!

Visit [preci.org.au](https://preci.org.au) to join our social media!

# PREC I Events

The following webinars have been provided by PRECI during this year.

## Webinars

1. How to Make Early Childhood Intervention Relevant. For a Change?  
Presented by Dr Robin McWilliam
2. Connecting Families to Peer Support: Karen Dimmock (ACD)
3. Invite, Engage, and Teach: Responsive Caregiving Strategies to Support Child Participation and Learning. Presented by Dr Sarah Sexton.
4. Child Agency: Increasing the impact of work with children and families to support long- term outcomes. Presented by Kylie Matusiewicz and Stephen Carberry
5. The Ecosystem Model of Inclusive Early Childhood Education - European perspectives. Presented by Dr Eva Bjork (Sweden)
6. Parents as peer leaders: a systems-informed positive psychology approach to wellbeing and family quality of life in early childhood intervention. Presented by Sylvana Mahmic, Dr Anoo Bhopti and Dr Peggy Kern
7. Authentic Assessment and Alignment with Professional Practices: Professor Marisa Macy

Follow PRECI on [Humanitix](#) and don't miss out!

# PRECI Events

## Member-only Community of Practice (online)

We commenced Member-only Community of Practice during this financial year. Topics included:

1. Practice-based research - understanding the basics. Facilitated by Anoo Bhopti.
2. Research to Practice – Making Evidence Work for You. Facilitated by Anoo Bhopti
3. Research to Practice: Authentic Assessment: Facilitated by Paula Buttigieg

## Workshops (in-person)

1. Practice-Based Coaching: Pyramid Model
2. Creating Caring and Inclusive Communities and Supporting Social Emotional Learning: How to implement the Pyramid Model: 2 day workshop facilitated by Dr Mary Louise Hemmeter

Attended by 86 participants.



Follow PRECI on [Humanitix](#) and don't miss out!

# Conference 2026

Preparations are now well underway for the PRECI 2026 Conference, to be held from the 13th–15th May 2026 at the Hilton Hotel in Adelaide.

The theme is **Better practice. Better outcomes. Better futures.**

Three keynote speakers have been finalised prior to June 30th 2025. These are Dr Robin McWilliam, Professor John Tobin and Associate Professor Anita D'Aprano. Details about the keynote speakers can be found on the [Conference website](#).

Venue arrangements are in progress at Hilton Adelaide to host plenary sessions, workshops, and exhibitor displays.

Further information can be found [here](#).



Conference  
2024



# Treasurer's Report

The 2024/2025 financial year has been dominated by the work on the new Best Practice Framework in Early Childhood Intervention and the Australian Institute of Family Studies project. In addition to an administrative fee from these projects, revenue was generated predominantly through workshops and memberships. We saw a decrease in membership with a total of \$5,555 this year compared to \$8,654 in the 2023/24 financial year. Given 2024 was a conference year, this drop was expected.

Post the end of Financial Year, PRECI was endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office to be income tax exempt and to have deductible gift recipient (DGR) status. This means we can now focus on a more sustainable fundraising plan, including seeking donors.

We continue to be extremely grateful to the Board Directors and other volunteers who have worked tirelessly on the many projects and activities delivered by PRECI (see Chair's report). As detailed in the attached reports, the total income for the 2024/2025 financial year was \$365,917.80, with grant funding accounting for 90% of this. Expenses totalled \$349,560.39, with project expenses making up the largest share. This resulted in a net profit of \$18,367.46.

PRECI looks forward to developing capacity across the sector in the 2025/2026 financial year, through webinars, face to face training and our third conference in Adelaide in May. We also look forward to employing a casual staff member to assist with administrative tasks.

Paula Buttigieg  
**Treasurer**



# Directors Declaration

Professionals and Researchers in  
Early Childhood Intervention Ltd  
ABN 97 659 837 644

## Financial Statements

**For the Year ended 30 June 2025**

### Directors Declaration

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity. This report has been prepared for the sole purpose of distributing a financial report to the board and for accompanying grant submissions.

The directors of the company declare that:

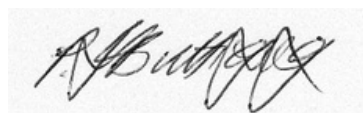
1. The financial statements and notes, present fairly the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



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Denise Luscombe (President)



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Paula Buttigieg (Treasurer)

## Balance sheet report

Accrual mode

30 Jun 2025

|                                  | Total             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                    |                   |
| <b>Current Assets</b>            |                   |
| <b>Bank Accounts</b>             |                   |
| Business Bank Account #1         | 181,093.77        |
| High Interest Account            | 50,000.00         |
| Statement Account- Visa card     | 10.00             |
| <b>Total Bank Accounts</b>       | <b>231,103.77</b> |
| Other Receivables                | 20,500.00         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>      | <b>251,603.77</b> |
| <b>Total Assets</b>              | <b>251,603.77</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>               |                   |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>       |                   |
| <b>GST Liabilities</b>           |                   |
| GST Balance                      | 17,725.31         |
| <b>Total GST Liabilities</b>     | <b>17,725.31</b>  |
| Income in advance                | 128,065.45        |
| Loan- Other                      | 45.00             |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b> | <b>145,835.76</b> |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>         | <b>145,835.76</b> |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                | <b>105,768.01</b> |
| <b>Equity</b>                    |                   |
| Retained Earnings                | 87,400.55         |
| Current Year Earnings            | 18,367.46         |
| <b>Total Equity</b>              | <b>105,768.01</b> |

## Profit and loss report

Accrual mode

01 Jul 2024 - 30 Jun 2025

|                            | Total             |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>              |                   |
| Membership Fee             | 5,555.08          |
| <b>Grants</b>              |                   |
| ECI Grant                  | 313,632.73        |
| AIFS Grant                 | 15,729.99         |
| <b>Total Grants</b>        | <b>329,362.72</b> |
| Workshop Income            | 31,000.00         |
| <b>Total Income</b>        | <b>365,917.80</b> |
| <b>Gross Profit</b>        | <b>365,917.80</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>            |                   |
| Accounting & Bookkeeping   | 863.59            |
| Advertising & Marketing    | 3,430.91          |
| Computer & IT Expenses     | 582.19            |
| Workshop Expenses          | 6,890.79          |
| Insurance                  | 2,616.80          |
| Staff Training & Education | 1,043.64          |
| Subscriptions              | 193.51            |
| Travel & Accommodation     | 2,432.64          |
| Website                    | 2,450.00          |
| <b>Projects</b>            |                   |
| <b>ECI Framework</b>       |                   |
| ECI Contractor Fees        | 284,759.70        |
| ECI Travel & Accommodation | 7,786.53          |
| ECI Venue Hire             | 10,893.19         |
| ECI IT Expenses            | 5,871.80          |
| ECI Consumables            | 4,321.50          |
| <b>Total ECI Framework</b> | <b>313,632.72</b> |
| <b>AIFS Project</b>        |                   |
| AIFS Contractor Fees       | 15,423.60         |
| <b>Total AIFS Project</b>  | <b>15,423.60</b>  |
| <b>Total Projects</b>      | <b>329,056.32</b> |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>      | <b>349,560.39</b> |
| <b>Operating Profit</b>    | <b>16,357.41</b>  |
| <b>Other Income</b>        |                   |
| Interest Received          | 2,010.05          |
| <b>Total Other Income</b>  | <b>2,010.05</b>   |
| <b>Net Profit</b>          | <b>18,367.46</b>  |

# Get In Touch



We thank our supporters

Rob Brown- Website sponsor

Makinson d'Apice Lawyers - Constitution/ACNC Application



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[preci.org.au](http://preci.org.au)