

9:30 am	<b>Welcome to Country</b> Murrundindi (Ngurungaeta of the Wurundjeri people)	
9:45 am	<b>Minister for Children's Address</b> Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn MP	
9:50 am	<b>Opening address</b> Deb Tsorbaris, CEO, CFECFW, & Alexis, Lived Experience Parent Designer	
10:05 am	<b>Keynote – Dr Justin Coulson</b> Talking about the challenges that families experience	
10:35 am	<b>Coffee Catch-Up hosted by MC Jo Stanley</b> Exploring the supporting and complimentary role Family Services provides to government departments, with Danny O’Kelly (Deputy Secretary, Community Operations and Practice Leadership, DFFH), Sharon Oxlade (Executive Director, Economic, Department of Treasury and Finance), and Rosie Pizzi (Director, Participation Early Learning Practice and Participation Division, Department of Education).	
10:55 am	Morning Tea	
11:15 am	<b>From insights to Action: How evidence is informing Family Services reforms</b> Mary Roberts (Director, Family Services and Evidence Strategy, DFFH)	
11:50 am	<b>Keynote: What can Family Services take from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study</b> Prof. Daryl Higgins (Australian Catholic University)	
12:20 pm	Lunch	
	<b>Workshops: Connecting, strengthening and restoring families</b>	
	<b>Blue Room</b>	<b>Orange Room</b>
1:10 pm	<b>Evidence-informed practices for working with young people in families</b> Tamara White, Principal Advisor, Centre for Evidence and Implementation, and Melissa Young, Practitioner UMFC	<b>Putting Families First</b> A coalition including OzChild, Youth Support and Advocacy Service, Australian African Foundation for Retention and Opportunity, Chari, and Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency. Presented by Achmel Temple.
1:35 pm	<b>VACCA - Working with First Nations families</b> Aaron Wallace-Peters Principal Practitioner	<b>Providing intensive Family Services in a rural community</b> Rachel Johnson, Manager Child and Family Services, Mallee Family Care
2:00 pm	<b>Parenting Today in Victoria: what we can learn from parents about their experiences of raising children</b> Dr Mandy Keinhuis, Senior Research Specialist, Parenting Research Centre Dr Catherine Wade, Principal Research Specialist, Parenting Research Centre	<b>Therapeutic Model of Care through a Family Services lens</b> Avalon Vickery, Team Leader - Integrated Family Services, Cassie Vale Senior Practitioner - Integrated Family Services and Tymur Hussein, Practice Leadership & Development Manager, Uniting
2:55 pm	Afternoon tea	
2:55 pm	<b>Acknowledgement of Service</b>	
3:10 pm	<b>Maintaining our passion and commitment to Family Services</b> Paul McDonald (Anglicare Victoria), Nicole Artico (Kid’s First), Wendy Sturgess (CAFS), Terry Symonds (Yooralla) and Aaron Wallace - Peters (VACCA)	
3:55 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Deb Tsorbaris and Mary Roberts	

The Centre would like to thank our Family Services practitioners, leaders, and partners who support families across Victoria. Your work is life changing. We're grateful for you.

## Speakers



### Deb Tsorbaris

Deb Tsorbaris is the CEO of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare. The Centre is Victoria's peak body for child and family services. The Centre provides sector training, facilitates and publishes research and advocates for better supports for struggling families.



### Murrundindi Hunter

Murrundindi is the Ngurungaeta (Head Man) of the Wurundjeri people and a descendant of William Barak. Murrundindi has spent the last 40 years sharing his culture through education in schools and Healesville Sanctuary and includes his strong values which include Respect and Unity.



### The Hon. Lizzie Blandthorn

Lizzie Blandthorn is the new Minister for Children and a member of the Victorian Legislative Council representing the Western Metropolitan Region. She became the Minister for Children and Minister for Disability in October 2023 following the appointment of Jacinta Allan as Premier of Victoria.



### Dr. Justin Coulson

Dr. Justin Coulson is the co-host and parenting expert on Channel Nine's Parental Guidance, the founder of the Happy Families website, and one of Australia's most trusted parenting, relationships and wellbeing experts. Justin holds a PhD in Positive Psychology. He and his wife Kylie have been married since the late 1990s and are the parents of 6 daughters.



### Prof. Daryl Higgins

Professor Daryl Higgins is the Director of the Institute of Child Protection Studies at the Australia Catholic University (ACU). His research focuses on public health approaches to protecting children, and child-safe organisational strategies. A registered psychologist, Prof. Higgins has been researching child abuse impacts and prevention, family violence and family functioning for 25 years.



### Mary Roberts

Mary Roberts is the Director, Family Services and Evidence Strategy at the Department, Families, Fairness and Housing. She has worked in various Children and Families policy areas for over 15 years. Her work in designing and strengthening human services programs has had a focus on vulnerable children, young people and families and on embedding evidence-based approaches in these programs.

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare is in Naarm (Melbourne) on the traditional lands of the Kulin Nation. The Kulin Nations is a collective of five First Nations clans; Wurundjeri, Boonwurrung, Wathaurung, Taungurung and Dja Dja Wurrung. The Centre respectfully acknowledges Victorian Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways where we live and work and recognise that our work is delivered on many lands across the Kulin Nations.

