

## Coffee, Connecting and Conversations Series 2

### Special Guests

#### **Sandie Wong**

Sandie is an Associate Professor at Macquarie University, and a Research Fellow with Goodstart Early Learning. Sandie has worked as an academic, manager, researcher, evaluator, educator, consultant and nurse, within a range of early childhood, academic and health organisations. Sandie is committed to working in collaborative, strengths-based ways, with academics from a range of disciplines, early childhood organisations and practitioners, and governments, to lead and support high quality research, evaluation and practitioner enquiry, that contributes to best practice in early childhood. Her current work investigates: early childhood practices (including inter-professional practice); workforce issues (including educator time-use); educator well-being; and the history of early childhood internationally.



#### **Melody Stack**

Melody works for the NSW Department of Education as the policy lead for transition from early childhood education to school. She has developed policy on a range of issues within the government and non-government sectors, including educational engagement, out of home care and youth justice. Prior to this, she was a curriculum leader and high school English teacher. She holds a Master of Education.



## **Dr Kathryn Hopps**

Dr Kathryn Hopps is an Adjunct Research Associate at Charles Sturt University and a Consultant at Early Childhood Australia. Kathryn trained as an early childhood and primary teacher and worked in a diverse range of settings in rural and regional NSW and Victoria including in centre-based and mobile children's services, family day care, primary schools and school age care.

Kathryn's research expertise is in transition to school and her PhD study focussed on communication between prior-to-school and school educators. Kathryn has also been a member of research teams led by Professors Sue Dockett and Bob Perry who worked on two national transition to school studies. Her current research study investigates families' experiences of transition to school during the pandemic. Kathryn lives on Ngunnawal country (ACT) and works for Early Childhood Australia as a Be You Consultant supporting early learning services around the country with mentally healthy transitions.

