

# Training and Education 2024



**City of  
Whittlesea**

For professionals supporting  
children and families





City of Whittlesea Recognises the rich Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledge the Wurundjeri Willum Clan and Tangurung People as the Traditional Owners of lands within the City of Whittlesea

## Message from Amelia Ryan Manager, Children and Families

I am delighted to present the City of Whittlesea's 2024 Training and Education Program for professionals working with children and families in our community and beyond.

Each year we work together with our partner organisations to offer high quality training, education and networking opportunities for people who engage with and support children and families accessing services, programs or living within our community and surrounds.

The City of Whittlesea is a proud signatory to the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter. As part of our commitment to this Charter we endeavour to engage with our partner organisations to work with professionals to create supportive environments and services for children and families.

In 2024, the 11<sup>th</sup> Whittlesea Early Years Conference will be held on Thursday June 6 at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre. This conference provides a unique opportunity for professionals to come together, reflect on best practice and deepen their understanding of our community, families and children.

I encourage you to seize the opportunity to actively participate in this year's program and join us at the conference. Your involvement will contribute to ongoing conversations that support you and your colleagues in establishing positive foundations for families, children and community.



**Amelia Ryan,**  
Manager Children and Families

# National Quality Standards

Each service will meet or exceed the National Quality Standards in ways that reflect their individual settings, program and community. All sessions within the Training and Education program are aimed to support services and educators' development in at least one of the Quality Areas.

### Quality Area 1: Educational program and practice

Educational program and practice of educators are child-centred, stimulating and maximise opportunities for enhancing and extending each child's learning and development.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 1.1

**Program:** The educational program enhances each child's learning and development.

#### Element in focus – Element 1.1.2

**Child centred:** Each child's current knowledge, strengths, ideas, culture, abilities and interests are the foundation of the program.

### Quality Area 2: Children's health and safety

Children have the right to experience quality education and care in an environment that safeguards and promotes their health, safety and wellbeing.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 2.2

**Safety:** Each child is protected.

#### Element in focus – Element 3.2.3

**Child protection:** Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

### Quality Area 3: Physical environment

Physical environment is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children's learning and development.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 3.2

**Use:** The service environment is inclusive, promotes competence and supports exploration and play-based learning.

#### Element in focus – Element 3.2.1

**Inclusive environment:** Outdoor and indoor spaces are organised and adapted to support every child's participation and to engage every child in quality experiences in both built and natural environments.

### Quality Area 4: Staffing arrangements

Qualified and experienced educators, who develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create predictable environments and encourage children's active engagement in the learning program.

#### Standard in Focus – Standard 4.2

**Professionalism:** Management, educators and staff are collaborative, respectful and ethical.

#### Element in focus – Element 4.2.1

**Professional collaboration:** Management, educators and staff work with mutual respect and collaboratively and challenge and learn from each other, recognising each other's strengths and skills.

### Quality Area 5: Relationships with children

Relationships with children are responsive, respectful and promote children's sense of security and belonging.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 5.1

**Relationships between educators and children:** Respectful and equitable relationships are maintained with each child.

### Element in focus – Element 5.1.1

**Positive educator to child interactions:** Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included.

### Quality Area 6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Collaborative relationships with families are fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children and community partnerships based on active communication, consultation and collaboration are essential.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 6.2

**Collaborative partnerships:** Collaborative partnerships enhance children's inclusion, learning and wellbeing.

#### Element in focus – Element 6.2.2

**Access and participation:** Effective partnerships support children's access, inclusion and participation in the program.

### Quality Area 7: Governance and Leadership

Effective leadership and governance of the service contributes to quality environments for children's learning and development. Effective leaders establish shared values for the service and set clear direction for the service's continuous improvement.

#### Standard in focus – Standard 7.2

**Leadership:** Effective leadership builds and promotes a positive organisational culture and professional learning community.

#### Element in focus – Element 7.2.3

**Development of professionals:** Educators, co-ordinators and staff members' performance is regularly evaluated and individual plans are in place to support learning and development.

# Calendar

## February

Thursday 15	Pathways to inclusion for families in your care	QA1	10
Wednesday 21	Pathways to inclusion in early childhood	QA1	10
Thursday 22	Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 1: Writing a vision for Reconciliation	QA7	11
Thursday 29	It feels like a first date - building a long-term relationship with the ELYF	QA1	11

## March

Tuesday 5	Playing IT safe: Using play to teach children about technology	QA1	12
Thursday 7	Nature play for educators	QA3	12
Tuesday 12	Setting up beautiful learning spaces	QA3	13
Wednesday 13	Language loop - using interpreting services	QA6	13
Thursday 14	The importance of wellbeing for educators; there is only one you	QA4	14
Thursday 21	It feels like a first date - building a long-term relationship with the ELYF	QA1	11
Tuesday 26	An introduction to supporting children and families of refugee backgrounds in services	QA5	14

## April

Thursday 18	Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 2: Establishing a RAP working group and adding actions, goals and deliverables to the RAP	QA7	15
Tuesday 23	Nature play bus tour for educators	QA3	15
Tuesday 30	Early literacy for educators – getting ready to read	QA1	16

## May

Tuesday 7	Inclusive guidelines for Koorie perspectives in early years with cultural audit tool: Session 1	QA2	17
Thursday 16	Embedding road safety education into curriculum	QA2	17

## June

Thursday 6	City of Whittlesea Early Years Conference 2024: Taking a deep dive into cross cultural learning and safety	QA1 QA3 QA6	18
Tuesday 11	Inclusive guidelines for Koorie perspectives in early years with cultural audit tool: Session 2	QA2	17
Thursday 27	Personal safety training	QA2	19

## July

Tuesday 23	Supporting respectful relationships in the early years	QA5	20
Thursday 25	Planning for assessment – using a rights-based and trauma informed assessment tool	QA1	20
Tuesday 30	Indigenous inspired places bus tour	QA7	21

## August

Thursday 1	Fun ways to explore bees in your ELC	QA3	22
Friday 2	Pathways to inclusion in early childhood	QA1	22
Monday 5	Making story time inclusive – sensory techniques for educators	QA1	23
Friday 16	'Let's read' early literacy training for community professionals	QA1	23
Thursday 22	Creating sensitive environments and routines for children aged 0-5	QA2	24
Wednesday 28	Setting up and planning for outdoor learning	QA3	24

## September

Wednesday 4	Action feedback with children: ideas and tools to listen better	QA7	25
Thursday 12	Developing our respectful learning environments	QA5	25
Tuesday 17	Early years cultural responsiveness training	QA6	26

## October

Tuesday 1, 8	Riding the wave: exploring the implementation of the updated Early Years Learning Framework: Session 1 and 2	QA1	27
Friday 11	Let's count	QA1	27
Wednesday 16, 30	Parents Building Solutions: Session 1 and 2	QA1	28
Thursday 17	Pathways to inclusion for families in your care	QA1	28
Tuesday 22	All come out to play	QA5	29
Thursday 24	Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 3: Implementing, evaluating and refreshing the RAP	QA7	29

## November

Friday 1	Let's count: Session 2	QA1	27
Thursday 7	Embedding inclusion before you need to	QA1	30
Wednesday 13	Parents Building Solutions: Session 3	QA1	28

# Children and Families



**Whittlesea Family Day Care**  
9217 2170  
famdaycare@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea Family Day Care is a network of selected and approved educators offering a quality, personalised and monitored home based child care program for children. Our service has been consistently rated as Exceeding the National Standards and our educators strive to provide a safe, nurturing and educational environment for the children in their care. Our qualified staff collaborate with the educators and families to build strong connections and relationships.

For more information about becoming a Family Day Care Educator visit [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familydaycare](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/familydaycare)



**Education and Engagement**  
9217 2170  
familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

City of Whittlesea Education and Engagement Facilitator liaises with early years and youth services sector to strengthen agency linkages and enhance service outcomes.

The Education and Engagement Officer's role includes:

- Identifying, implement and review education and training programs for parents, young people and professionals
- Supporting children's consultation by working in partnership with the agency or service
- Implementing the endorsed Charter Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities across the City of Whittlesea.



**Early Years CALD Outreach Program**  
9217 2170  
fet@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

This program provides support to families of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in accessing and participating in early childhood education and other early years programs and services. The team has dedicated CALD Outreach workers who provide direct support to parents/carers with:

- Registration and enrolment of children starting in 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten
- Supporting attendance in 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten
- Referrals to other early childhood and support services in their local area, such as community / supported playgroups and Maternal and Child Health
- Transition from kindergarten to school support for children and families.

We offer free interpreting services to all families to support throughout their engagement with the CALD Outreach worker.

Families can self-refer to this program



**Playgroups**  
9217 2170  
playgroups@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Playgroups provide an opportunity for parents and carers to come together in a local space with their babies, toddlers and preschool age children. It is a chance to assist their children to learn through play and connect with other families and services within the local community.

### Community Playgroups

There are a range of Community Playgroups being delivered across the City of Whittlesea.

Playgroups are low cost and held in a local venue which is a relaxed setting that can support children and their families to be more connected to their community, whilst offering a range of valuable early learning opportunities.

The below link can assist you in finding a playgroup located near you:  
[www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/playgroups)

### Supported Playgroups

Supported playgroups are delivered by early years or social work professionals. These playgroups provide additional support for families and children that attend their programs. They have a key focus and/or eligibility criteria that that will vary dependant on the group.



**Kindergarten Central Application Scheme**  
9217 2170  
keo@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

Council operates a Kindergarten Central Application Scheme for attendance at 3 and 4 year old Kindergarten. Apply online via [www.kindergarten.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.kindergarten.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)

Hard copy forms available from the Council office, Kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health centres or can be downloaded from Council's website.

### Applications are now open for:

**Children born between 1 May 2019 – 30 April 2020** to attend 3 year old Kindergarten in 2023 and 4 year old in 2024.

**Children born between 1 May 2020 – 30 April 2021** to attend 3 year old Kindergarten in 2024 and 4 year old in 2025.

**Applications open 1 February 2024 for:**

**Children born between 1 May 2021 – 30 April 2022** to attend 3 year old Kindergarten in 2025 and 4 year old in 2026.

**Applications open 1 February 2025 for:**

**Children born between 1 May 2022 – 30 April 2023** to attend 3 year old Kindergarten in 2026 and 4 year old in 2027.

Note: From 2023 onwards, the Victorian State Government has announced that kindergarten will be free for all 3 and 4 year old children.



**Immunisation**  
9217 2100  
immunisation@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

The City of Whittlesea holds regular public immunisation sessions throughout the municipality.

Council's public immunisation service includes:

- Infant vaccinations
- Secondary school student vaccinations
- Workplace and seasonal flu vaccinations
- Funded and catch up vaccinations
- Updating overseas histories and missing records to the Australian Immunisation Register.

To make an appointment and/or further information:

[www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/immunisation)







### Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Service

9217 2170  
mch@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

MCH Service is a free service for families living in the City of Whittlesea who have children newborns to school age.

Our multidisciplinary team includes MCH Nurses, Lactation Consultants and Early Childhood Professionals.

Our service provides 10 Key Age and Stage consultations from a home visit to 3.5 years. The visits focus on your child's health growth and development and family wellbeing.

Additionally, your child's immunisation status will be monitored to ensure it is up to date.

The free immunisation program to protect children from serious and preventable diseases is offered by Council's Immunisation Team.



### Sleep and Settling Outreach Service

The Sleep and Settling Outreach consultations are for families experiencing sleep and settling concerns. The consultations provide more intensive and tailored sleep and settling information and support to parents and caregivers in their home or other suitable community settling.



### Enhanced Maternal and Child Health (EMCH) Service

8401 6205  
emchs@whittlesea.vc.gov.au

EMCH Service provides additional outreach support for families experiencing increased vulnerability. The EMCH teamwork in partnership with families to increase parenting skills, confidence and enjoyment and to improve child health and wellbeing.

A referral to EMCH is required and must meet eligibility criteria.

For further information or to refer, please contact EMCH Office 8401 6205 or email a completed referral form to emchs@whittlesea.vc.gov.au




### City of Whittlesea Youth Service

9217 2170  
baseline@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

You can find us at the: EDGE Youth Facility, Shop MM1, Westfield Plenty Valley, 415 McDonalds Road, Mill Park

We also work out in community in schools, community centres, libraries and other services to bring programs, activities and initiatives to where young people are. Contact us to be linked in with the relevant local area Youth Development Officer to find out more about our work in the community.

www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/youth

 baselinecityofwhittlesea



### Kids First Family Services

Kids First Family Services can run a range of parenting educational groups at your school, childcare, kinder or other community facility. We are also happy to partner with your service to run parenting groups in the North-East Metro Melbourne catchment region. Please get in touch with Integrated Family Services Team Leader on 95450 0900 to discuss your needs.

# Early Years Network Meetings

### Whittlesea Early Years Partnership Meetings 2024

Tuesday 19 March,  
10am – 12pm

Tuesday 14 May,  
10am – 12pm

Tuesday 20 August,  
10am – 12pm

Tuesday 19 November,  
10am – 12pm

Venue TBC

To join the mailing list and receive invites for the Network meetings, please email familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au

The Whittlesea Early Years Partnership (WEYP) meets four times per year, bringing together Family Services and Early Years practitioners and professionals from across City of Whittlesea and surrounding areas with a vision of:

"Strengthening connections and improving outcomes for children and families" The WEYP provides a platform to share strategic information and opportunities with a focus on -

- Strengthening the service system and integration in the reform environment
- Identification of emerging community trends/needs/ partnership opportunities.

Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Children and Families Department

### Early Years Network

Tuesday 20 February,  
4:30pm – 6:30pm, TBC

Thursday 22 February,  
4:15-6:15pm,  
Online via WebEx

Thursday 23 May,  
4pm – 6pm, TBC

Thursday 30 May,  
4pm – 6pm, Online via WebEx

Tuesday 6 August,  
4pm – 6pm, TBC

Monday 12 August,  
4pm – 6pm, Online via WebEx

Wednesday 30 October,  
4pm to 6pm, TBC

Thursday 31 October,  
4pm – 6pm,  
Online via WebEx

To join the mailing list and receive invites for the network meetings, please email lily.ames@education.vic.gov.au

The North-Eastern Melbourne Area (NEMA) Department of Education Early Childhood Improvement Branch (ECIB) is excited to invite an early childhood teacher from your service to become a member of a new Early Years Network in your local area. The Network meets quarterly. Participation in this network will provide you with the opportunity to:

- Connect with early childhood teachers across your local area for collaborative learning
- Capture and share existing knowledge and pedagogical practice
- Develop new knowledge and deepen understanding of emerging evidence based contemporary practice and early years reform implementation
- Find solutions to common problems of practice.

### Who should attend?

To support the development of collaborative relationships and provide opportunity for engaged shared conversation, we ask that your service sends one early childhood teacher and encourage this representative to share learnings back at the service.

### Backfill contribution

A contribution to backfill is available for one early childhood teacher per service whose attendance at the EY Network requires them to be replaced by a relief teacher. This will equate to a half day rate of \$180.

Facilitator: Angela Ditchmen (FKA Children's Services). Supported by Lily Ames, (Kindergarten Improvement Advisor from the NEMA ECIB).

# February



## Pathways to inclusion for families in your care

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 15 February, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNNSY](http://www.trybooking.com/CNNSY)

Cost: Free

This session will include a panel of services who can support your families when there are language barriers or additional support needs. Join the teams to hear more information about the services and what they do and have the opportunity to ask further questions relevant to the families connected to you and your services.

Services include:

#### Kids First Connect Early Parenting Program

The Connect Early Parenting Program provides support to parents and caregivers with children up to the age of 12 years.

#### Kids First Early Help 3757

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0-12 years within the City of Whittlesea.

#### CALD Outreach program

CALD Outreach help families to find early childhood education, and family support services.

#### Association for Children with a Disability (ACD)

ACD is a not-for-profit organisation that support Victorian professionals and families with children with all disability types.

Facilitator: Kids First, CALD Outreach Team and Association for Children with a Disability



## Pathways to inclusion in early childhood

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Wednesday 21 February, 2pm – 3:30pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNLZO](http://www.trybooking.com/CNLZO)

Cost: Free

This session will cover programs that support inclusion in an early childhood context.

It will introduce and discuss the programs, within an early years setting, which support the inclusion of children in learning and care:

- Developing an understanding what the available programs are
- How they can work for your service
- How you can access the programs
- Funding guidelines and options: (pathways), including what documentation is required.

We will provide a mind map as part of this session and process.

Facilitator: Inclusion Support Team, Preschool Field Officer and KIS Team



## Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 1

### Writing a vision for Reconciliation

#### QA7: Governance and leadership

Thursday 22 February, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNJZF](http://www.trybooking.com/CNJZF)

Cost: Book all three RAP sessions for \$40 or \$15 per session if booked individually.

The first in a 3-part 'Diving Deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning' series, this virtual workshop will walk and talk participants through the process of writing – and refreshing – their school or early learning service's [www.narragunnawali.org.au/vision-faqs](http://www.narragunnawali.org.au/vision-faqs) statement. In doing so, it will explore some of the key conceptual and terminological considerations when communicating about reconciliation and how to minimise risk and maximise respect through language use. Participants will be supported to leave the session with a stronger awareness of how the ways in which we talk about reconciliation are just as important as the actions we take; language is itself active and impacts attitudes, understandings and relationships in a very real sense.

Facilitator: Reconciliation Australia

#### Session 2: Establishing a RAP working group and adding actions (Thursday 18 April)

#### Session 3: Implementing, evaluating and refreshing the RAP (Thursday 24 October)



## It feels like a first date - building a long-term relationship with the ELYF

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Session 1: Thursday 29 February, 6:30pm – 8pm

Session 2: Thursday 21 March, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CMVIN](http://www.trybooking.com/CMVIN)

Cost: \$40 (2 sessions)

It feels like a first date - building a long-term relationship with the ELYF explores how family day carers can build a relationship with the ELYF which supports their work with and alongside children and families. We will explore over two sessions how you might think about the ELYF, how you might dare to dream with the ELYF and how you can take these ideas into everyday practice.

Facilitator: Anthony Semann





# March



## Playing IT safe: Using play to teach children about technology

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Tuesday 5 March, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CHOEC](http://www.trybooking.com/CHOEC)

Cost: Free

A free workshop for early years educators discovering how you can teach digital literacy through play-based learning.

Join this free online workshop to discover the importance of teaching digital literacy in the early years and help children and families use digital technology in safe and helpful ways that establish good habits for life.

*Facilitator: Alannah and Madeline Foundation*



## Nature play for educators

### QA3: Physical environment

Thursday 7 March, 6:30pm - 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNMAD](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMAD)

Cost: Free

Are you keen to access and enjoy nearby areas of natural open space with your centre's children? This webinar is for early years educators who would like to develop their leadership by introducing or extending nature play or bush kinder beyond the facility. Merri Creek Management Committee has a record of supporting early years educators' leadership outside the centre. Yes – within walking distance. We value the experience of going out to appreciate nearby areas, enjoying the whole journey, listening closely to children and leaving no footprint. Please join us!

*Facilitator: Merri Creek Management Committee Special Engagement Programs Coordinator and City of Whittlesea Conservation and Biodiversity*



## Setting up beautiful learning spaces

### QA3: Physical environment

Tuesday 12 March, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CMVFE](http://www.trybooking.com/CMVFE)

Cost: \$40

How do we set up beautiful learning spaces which support learning and move beyond just interior design. Beauty matters and the intersection between beauty and learning is critical. Spaces speak and they speak of many things including inclusion and a valuing of the person who is in the space. In this session we will explore how to maximise your spaces for learning and ensure they are welcoming, inclusive and beautiful for all children.

*Facilitator: Anthony Semann*



## Language loop - using interpreting services

### QA6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Wednesday 13 March, 4:30pm – 6pm

Epping Community Centre,  
378 Findon Road, Epping

[www.trybooking.com/CNMEO](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMEO)

Cost: Free

Working if interpreters isn't always as simple as just translating, there are many aspects to consider such as consent, safety and respect.

This session will provide a range of information for Early Years Practitioners on how to use interpreting services from our CALD Outreach Team. We will walk you through how to register your service to Language Loop, how to best support your families when using interpreting services, discuss important factors to consider when using interpreting services and when and how to use them.

*Facilitator: Aneke Harris, CALD Outreach Team*





### The importance of wellbeing for educators; there is only one you

#### QA4: Staffing arrangements

Thursday 14 March, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Civic Centre, Fountain View,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNMFC](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMFC)

Cost: \$40

Working with children and families is a challenging role and there are increasing demands placed on our sector. How do you have the time to look after your wellbeing when there is an endless cycle of regulations, updated frameworks, quality standards, assessment and rating visits, documentation, risk assessments, portfolios, meetings and Quality Improvement Plans? Not to mention the educator shortage and your home life juggle.

We cannot manage time, yet we can manage ourselves to utilise it more effectively.

This session is about learning strategies to reduce the business and the key to being assertive.

- Listen to 10 steps that will improve your wellbeing
- Stop saying 'yes' when you want to say 'no'
- Learn to spend time on what is important, not what is urgent
- It begins with you.

Facilitator: Louise Dorrat



### An introduction to supporting children and families of Refugee backgrounds in early years services

#### QA5: Relationships with children

Tuesday 26 March, 4pm – 6pm

Epping Community Centre,  
378 Findon Road, Epping

[www.trybooking.com/CMVGF](http://www.trybooking.com/CMVGF)

Cost: Free

This workshop enables early years staff to understand the likely experiences shared by refugee backgrounds and introduces approaches to supporting children and their families in early years settings.

Participants will:

- Examine global and local data relating to Australia's Humanitarian Program and resettlement in the City of Whittlesea
- Use both the Foundation House Trauma Recovery Framework and Three Lenses for understanding families' refugee experiences
- Use practical case studies to consider how staff might apply learnings to their early years' service context.

Facilitator: Foundation House



## April



### Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 2

#### Establishing a RAP working group and adding actions, goals and deliverables to the RAP

#### QA7: Governance and leadership

Thursday 18 April, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNJZF](http://www.trybooking.com/CNJZF)

Cost: Book all three RAP sessions for \$40 or \$15 per session if booked individually.

The second in a 3-part 'Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning' series, this virtual workshop will walk and talk participants through the process of establishing and mobilising a RAP working group [www.narragunnawali.org.au/working-group-faqs](http://www.narragunnawali.org.au/working-group-faqs) to drive a school or early learning service's RAP development and implementation. It will explore ideas pertaining to RAP working group structure, governance and sustainability, as well as ideas for how the Group can support whole school/service engagement with RAP commitments. Participants will also be walked and talked through how goals and deliverables [www.narragunnawali.org.au/actions-goals-deliverables-faqs](http://www.narragunnawali.org.au/actions-goals-deliverables-faqs) can be utilised to deepen engagement with the RAP actions committed to by a school or early learning service community and to support both monitoring and accountability measures.

Facilitator: Reconciliation Australia

**Session 1: Writing a vision for Reconciliation**  
(Thursday 22 February)

**Session 3: Implementing, evaluating and refreshing the RAP** (Thursday 24 October)



### Nature play bus tour for educators

#### QA3: Physical environment

Tuesday 23 April, 12pm – 3:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNMGE](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMGE)

Cost: \$10

Kids love the outdoors! With their wild imaginations and curious minds, a natural space becomes a new world to explore, run, climb and play in.

City of Whittlesea manage an extensive network of natural reserves. Spending regular time in nature helps children to fall in love with, care for and create life-long connections with their local landscapes.

The bus tour will include opportunities for networking and building connections with like-minded nature play enthusiasts and get new ideas.

We'll visit a few natural reserves that have wonderful nature play opportunities.

We encourage you to dress for the outdoors and for easy walking.

Facilitator: City of Whittlesea Conservation and Biodiversity







## Early literacy for educators – getting ready to read

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Tuesday 30 April, 6pm – 8pm

Mill Park Library,  
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

[www.trybooking.com/CNMZF](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMZF)

Cost: Free

Explore your local Yarra Plenty Regional Library, and discover its collections, services and events.

Early literacy and intergenerational literacy tips and how being a member of your local library can inform, educate, and empower. You'll learn reading tips and see demonstrations on how and why reading is important to all community members.

Facilitator: Yarra Plenty Regional Library



## May



## Inclusive guidelines for Koorie perspectives in early years with cultural audit tool

### QA2: Children's health and safety

Session 1: Tuesday 7 May, 6pm - 9pm

Session 2: Tuesday 11 June, 6pm - 9pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNNAA](http://www.trybooking.com/CNNAA)

Cost: \$30 (2 sessions)

The guidelines professional development session for inclusive Koorie perspectives were developed with the purpose to provide early years services with a step-by-step insight on how to embed processes and practices that support Koorie children, families and community to feel a sense of belonging and connection within early years services. Services participating in sessions will be provided with the Cultural Audit Tool.

Each participant is provided with a Certificate of Attendance for full sessions.

Customised session content for Session 2 to be advised by survey completed at the end of Session 1.

Facilitator: Victorian Aboriginal Education Association Inc.



## Embedding road safety education into curriculum

### QA2: Children's health and safety

### QA6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

### QA7: Governance and leadership

Thursday 16 May, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNMNZ](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMNZ)

Cost: Free

Louise Dorrat has been part of the Starting out Safely program since 2011 and with a team of expert ECEC leaders has developed this engaging and interactive session specifically for ECEC professionals.

Early childhood road safety education is about educators working with children and their families to develop skills, behaviours and attitudes that assist children to be safe and active participants in communities and speaks to the safety of children on our roads as passengers, pedestrians and users of bicycles and other wheeled toys. Road safety education requires intentional (thoughtful, purposeful and deliberate) planning that articulates the way educators support children to acquire these skills. Through intentional teaching decisions, educators can ensure that their program includes the resources and practices to support children's learning and development.

To be effective, road safety education must be evidence based and match the child's stage of development and level of independence as a road user.

This session will speak directly to the NQS and threads the NQS throughout – specifically QA2, QA6 and QA7.

Facilitator: Louise Dorrat



# City of Whittlesea Early Years Conference 2024

## Taking a Deep Dive into Cross Cultural Learning and Safety

**QA1: Educational program and practice**  
**QA4: Staffing arrangements**  
**QA6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities**

Thursday 6 June, 8:30am – 4:30pm  
Plenty Ranges Art and Convention Centre  
[www.trybooking.com/CNNTG](http://www.trybooking.com/CNNTG)

Cost: Early Bird \$75, Full Rate: \$95

**This event is a partnership between the City of Whittlesea and City of Darebin**

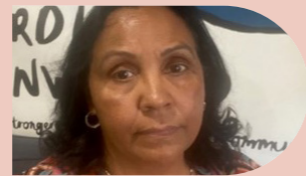
City of Whittlesea, in partnership with City of Darebin, invites early years professionals to the 11<sup>th</sup> Early Years Conference. Join us on a day of exploration, where participants will delve into themes focused on embedding Child Safety into early years settings to ensure children, young people, families and professionals are culturally safe.

The conference will create a space to strengthen your connections and understanding of culture with an emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistic Diverse communities.

Bookings are essential. Book by Monday 1 April to receive the discounted early bird price.



### Key Notes include:



**Carol Harrison**  
Aboriginal Learnings and Teachings CEO

Carol Harrison is proud to be a descendant from the oldest living culture in the world. Her ancient ties are with the Yuin, Yorta Yorta, Wotchabolic, Gunai and Dja Dja wurrung people.

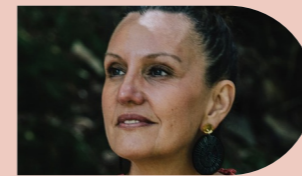
Carol has over 15 years of professional practice in mainstream education. Her current role as an Aboriginal cultural mentor allows Aboriginal perspectives to be appreciated, experienced, and embedded into the delivery of education, and workplace processes and practices. Carol holds a Bachelor of Education, Diploma in Management, Certificate II in Business, Diploma in Project Management and a Graduate Certificate in Career Development Practice.

Some important aspects in Carol's role is supporting and mentoring workforce development in cultural capability, supporting the development of cultural competencies with the non-Aboriginal workforce through the promotion of Aboriginal ways of learning and teaching where connections can be made to Western learning theories and collaborating with others to design relevant and innovative learning experiences for community.

Carol's experience of leadership through cultural change is embedded in her consultancy work through the design and development of cultural curricula such as; an online staff cultural tool, introduction of cultural activities, creating community collaboration, course content and resource design, and cultural awareness and cultural safety training.

Carol's favourite topic to teach is empowerment, she believes empowerment is for people to gain a sense of self- ownership, self-growth and self-transition that builds resilience.

Outside the professional space Carol enjoys her volunteer work in community radio and enjoys spending time with her grandchild and three granddogs.



**Lee Couch,**  
Wellness Practitioner and Educator

Lee is a modern-day medicine woman anchored in the strong beliefs of her Culture, Spirit and Country, this is at the front line in all that she is dedicated to. She works intentionally towards stewardship of Country and lifelong learning, creating a legacy that seeds the path forward. She works within the Victorian Aboriginal community and the wider community, facilitating and inspiring, healing across generations. The rhythm of her work is to facilitate love and change.

### Wide range of workshops on the day including:



**Brotherhood of St Laurence**



**Early Childhood Consultant**

## June



### Personal safety training

#### QA2: Children's health and safety

Thursday 27 June, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room, 25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNMOB](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMOB)

Cost: \$45

This 2-hour interactive workshop aims to give adults and educators the knowledge, confidence and inspiration to empower children with personal safety skills.

These essential life skills will help keep kids safe from harm, abuse, bullying and grooming.

This program also addresses Child Safe Standard 3 "children and young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs and to relevant related information in an age-appropriate way".

Many abused children did not have skills they could default to in unsafe situations and defaulted to 'freeze' mode. Others innocently trusted their offender due to the nature of their relationship. Children need simple information and open discussions to help keep them safe from sexual abuse and any other type of harm.

Through storytelling, shared discussions, games and activities adults can help children build skills, confidence and awareness.

*Facilitator: Debbie Boyse and Sophie Ciecwiwa, Child Safe Strategies*





# July



## Supporting respectful relationships in the early years

### QA5: Relationships with children

Tuesday 23 July, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Janefield Drive Community Centre,  
2 Manchester Crescent, Bundoora

[www.trybooking.com/CNMOQ](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMOQ)

Cost: Free

A practical and interactive 2-hour workshop to examine the limiting attitudes, expectations and stereotypes that contribute to gender inequality and the important role educators have in supporting respectful relationships and positive outcomes for children of all ages.

Reflecting on how children construct an understanding of who they are and the influences that shape their beliefs about themselves and their place in the world, attendees will explore their own experiences and practices in their work with young children.

Participants will learn strategies and explore a range of practical resources to support them in intentionally creating a supportive and respectful environment for learning.

Delivered in partnership with the City of Darebin

Facilitator: Rachael Bye, Early Years Resource Officer,  
City of Darebin



## Planning for assessment – using a rights-based and trauma informed assessment tool

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 25 July, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNMPJ](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMPJ)

Cost: \$30

This session will support early years educators to apply a rights-based approach to children's participation in their early years setting and additionally, consider how the needs of trauma informed children might impact their work to support children's voices.

Facilitator: Lauren Thomas, Australian Childhood Foundation



## Indigenous inspired places bus tour

### QA7: Governance and leadership

Tuesday 30 July, 8:45am – 3:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CMVLV](http://www.trybooking.com/CMVLV)

Cost: \$55

Join our Access and Engagement team in visiting Indigenous inspirational early education and support services. Experience high quality and inclusive environments to inspire your own Indigenous practices.

Facilitator: Access and Engagement Team,  
City of Whittlesea



# August



## Fun ways to explore bees in your ELC

### QA3: Physical environment

Thursday 1 August, 6:30pm – 8pm  
Janefield Drive Community Centre,  
2 Manchester Crescent, Bundoora

[www.trybooking.com/CNMPR](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMPR)

Cost: \$25

Discuss the importance of bees in our environment and how we can pass this information on to our earlier learners. During this session you will create a bee hotel and wearable bee wings.

Facilitator: Urban Upcycle



## Pathways to inclusion in early childhood

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Friday 2 August, 10:45am – 12:15pm  
Online  
[www.trybooking.com/CNMRI](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMRI)

Cost: Free

This session will cover programs that support inclusion in an early childhood context.

It will introduce and discuss the programs, within an early years setting, which support the inclusion of children in learning and care:

- Developing an understanding what the available programs are
- How they can work for your service
- How you can access the programs
- Funding guidelines and options: (pathways), including what documentation is required.

We will provide a mind map as part of this session and process.

Facilitator: Inclusion Support Team,  
Preschool Field Officer and KIS Team



## Making story time inclusive – sensory techniques for educators

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Monday 5 August, 6pm – 8pm  
Mill Park Library,  
394 Plenty Road, Mill Park

[www.trybooking.com/CNOPF](http://www.trybooking.com/CNOPF)

Cost: Free

Learn a range of tips and tricks on how to run an inclusive low-sensory Storytime session for the children in your care from the friendly staff of your local Yarra Plenty Regional Library.

Facilitator: Yara Plenty Regional Library



## 'Let's read' early literacy training for community professionals

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Friday 16 August, 9:30am – 2:30pm  
City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[forms.office.com/r/GmbsteYZFX](http://forms.office.com/r/GmbsteYZFX)

Cost: Free

Let's Read is an evidence-based early literacy program which promotes reading to children from birth to 5 years. It is a multi-tiered initiative designed to increase home literacy resources and build the capacity of families and professionals. The one-day workshop trains community professionals to encourage families and caregivers to share words, stories and books every day with children from birth to help them establish the building blocks for literacy. The training provides up-to-date knowledge around literacy and a FREE allocation of book pack resources to help promote the importance of families reading with children from an early age.

Facilitator: The Smith Family







### Creating sensitive environments and routines for children aged 0-5

#### QA2: Children's health and safety

Thursday 22 August, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CNMRW](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMRW)

Cost: \$75

This session provides an opportunity for professionals working with children 0-5 years to explore the importance of creating sensitive environments and routines through introducing frameworks of practice that will increase knowledge, skills and confidence to undertake transformative practice in a variety of settings.

Facilitator: Pat Jewell, Australian Childhood Foundation



### Setting up and planning for outdoor learning

#### QA3: Physical environment

Wednesday 28 August, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Online

[www.trybooking.com/CMVJX](http://www.trybooking.com/CMVJX)

Cost: \$40

The outdoors matters as much as the indoors and requires as much attention and thought as any other play and learning space. In this webinar we will explore how to set up an outdoor play space including what can be introduced to the space and how to plan for children's learning. This practical session will include examples of outdoor planning documents as well as set ups. It will equip the participants to ensure their outdoor environments are valued as much as the indoor spaces and offer children the opportunity to engage in learning and project work.

Facilitator: Anthony Semann



## September



### Action feedback with children: ideas and tools to listen better

#### QA7: Governance and leadership

Wednesday 4 September, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Janefield Drive Community Centre,  
2 Manchester Crescent, Bundoora

[www.trybooking.com/CNMIX](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMIX)

Cost \$40

This workshop introduces and explores core concepts of engaging children in rights-based participation, feedback and evaluative processes. It specifically will examine the Action Feedback Tool that has been developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation, including how to use it and incorporate its data into meaningful processes of analysis and service design.

The cost of the workshop includes a discount for participants on the purchase of the Children's Feedback Tool.

Facilitator: Lauren Thomas Australian Childhood Foundation



### Developing our respectful learning environments

#### QA5: Relationships with children

Thursday 12 September, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Janefield Community Centre,  
2 Manchester Crescent, Bundoora

[www.trybooking.com/CNMSL](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMSL)

Cost: Free

A practical and hands on workshop that follows on from the Supporting Respectful Relationships in the early years workshops and is open to new participants.

Bringing educators together to develop a deeper understanding of best practice in respectful relationship education in the early years, this session provides an opportunity for peer learning, discussion of work within programs and services, celebrating successes and unpacking any challenges collaboratively. Attendees will explore current developments in respectful relationships and gender equality education and explore new resources to use in their programs.

Delivered in partnership with the City of Darebin

Facilitator: Rachael Bye, Early Years Resource Officer, City of Darebin





## Early Years cultural responsiveness training

### QA6: Collaborative partnerships with families and communities

Tuesday 17 September, 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
Barry Road Community and Activity Centre,  
36 Barry Road, Lalor

[www.trybooking.com/CNMST](http://www.trybooking.com/CNMST)

Cost: \$30

This session explores cultural responsiveness practice in early learning and the importance of building a meaningful relationship with children and families that promotes and protects their cultural dignity. Join us to explore strategies and approaches that focus on establishing and strengthening relationships with newly arrived families, while understanding barriers to engagement. Our approach is tailored, interactive and engaging. We build containers of caretaking to support participants to move into courageous spaces of learning. Our trainers are skilled and experienced practitioners who draw on their years of professional experiences.

Learning outcomes:

- An understanding of the impact of the settlement experience from a new arrival's perspective and an understanding of the challenges for children and families
- Increased awareness of strategies to foster cultural safety and an inclusive environment, inclusive of exploring stereotypes and bias.

Facilitator: Brotherhoods of St Laurence



## October



## Riding the wave: Exploring the updated EYLF

### QA1: Educational program and practice

**Session 1: Connect and explore**  
Tuesday 1 October, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**Session 2: Challenge**  
Tuesday 8 October, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNOQD](http://www.trybooking.com/CNOQD)

Cost: \$30 (2 sessions)

Join Catharine Hydon as she guides us through the updates to the Early Years Learning Framework for Australia V2.0, 2022 and what it means to your daily work with children and families as you implement the changes.

The workshops will be an opportunity for collaborative work and shared practice, to continue to build our professional confidence and practice skills.

The sessions are for all early years educators, educational leaders and nominated supervisors.

### Session 1: Connect and explore

An interactive and dynamic opportunity to think with colleagues as we connect to the updated EYLF (V2 2022), draw links to our current practice knowledge, pedagogical understandings and contexts, including the VEYLDF. We will also dive into the aspects that extend thinking and practice.

### Session 2: Challenge

A lively and safe space to examine the substantial changes in the EYLF V2 2022 and how we might respond to the big ideas that trouble and challenge us as practitioners.

Facilitator: Catharine Hydon



## Let's count

### QA1: Educational program and practice

**Session 1:** Friday 11 October, 9:15am - 3:15pm  
**Session 2:** Friday 1 November, 9:15am - 3:15pm

Janefield Community Centre,  
2 Manchester Crescent, Bundoora

[forms.office.com/r/XqJtvH1MdR](https://forms.office.com/r/XqJtvH1MdR)

Cost: Free (2 sessions)

Let's Count is targeted at community professionals supporting and working with children aged 3-5 and their families. This PD discusses the importance of math in the early years and collaborative partnerships with families to engage children in mathematics every day. The sessions will consist of 2 full day modules with a 4-week implementation period between Module 1 and 2. Participants who complete both modules of this PD will receive a certificate and a bonus Resource Bag, access to a Digital Bag of resources and an Educator Handbook.

Facilitator: The Smith Family





# PARENTZONE

## Parents building solutions

### QA1: Educational program and practice

**Session 1:** Wednesday 16 October, 9:30am – 4:30pm

**Session 2:** Wednesday 30 October, 9:30am – 4:30pm

**Session 3:** Wednesday 13 November, 9:30am - 4:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

**ParentZone.Northern@Anglicarevic.org.au**  
**8641 8900**

Cost: \$545 (3 sessions)

These sessions provide a comprehensive framework for professionals who work with parents in any circumstances.

Learning outcomes:

- Engage parents effectively in conversations about their parenting role by using a strength based, reflective approach
- Articulate a comprehensive framework for parents based on family values, relationships and boundaries.

Through individual, family or group work, support parents to:

- develop known and agreed rules within their family
- implement appropriate discipline, including the use of known consequences
- develop appropriate expectations for the age and development stage of the child
- help children deal with a range of feelings and deal with their own feelings as adults
- build positive family relationships and communication
- support resilience in children.

People who have attended have told us they benefited from this program including social workers, teachers, psychologists, case managers, children's services workers, family services practitioners, volunteers and residential staff.

Facilitator: ParentZone



## Pathways to inclusion for families in your care

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 17 October, 6:30pm – 8pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

**www.trybooking.com/CNOQN**

Cost: Free

This session will include a panel of services who can support your families when there are language barriers or additional support needs. Join the teams to hear more information about the services and what they do and have the opportunity to ask further questions relevant to the families connected to you and your services.

Services include:

#### Kids First Connect Early Parenting Program

The Connect Early Parenting Program provides support to parents and caregivers with children up to the age of 12 years.

#### Kids First Early Help 3757:

Our team of Family Coaches are here to support families and children aged 0-12 years within the City of Whittlesea.

#### CALD Outreach program

CALD Outreach help families to find early childhood education, and family support services.

#### Association for Children with a Disability (ACD)

ACD is a not-for-profit organisation that support Victorian professionals and families with children with all disability types.

Facilitator: Kids First, CALD Outreach Team and Association for Children with a Disability



## All come out to play

### QA5: Relationships with children

Tuesday 22 October, 6:30pm – 8pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

**www.trybooking.com/CNNLC**

Cost: Free

The ALL come out to play! Project is an innovative Primary Prevention program. A professional development workshop that runs for 90 minutes on how to use ALL come out to play! to embed gender equality in the early years practice includes:

- Education and understanding of gender inequality and the link to violence against women. Why it is important we address gender inequality in the early years
- An excerpt of performance of the show itself
- An interactive demonstration of how to embed the 10 resources we have developed, with discussion participants generating new ideas
- Trouble shooting discussion (navigating barriers in early childhood settings)
- Distribution of the resources in boxed kit form to all participants.

Facilitator: Playgroups Victoria, Nancy Lee Merzel



## Diving deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning: Session 3

### Implementing, evaluating and refreshing the RAP

#### QA7: Governance and leadership

Thursday 24 October, 6:30pm – 8pm

Online

**www.trybooking.com/CNJZF**

Cost: Book all three RAP sessions for \$40 or \$15 per session if booked individually.

The third and final session in the 3-part 'Diving Deeper into Reconciliation Action Planning' series, this virtual workshop will walk and talk participants through the expectations and opportunities for implementing a RAP once it has been submitted for review and publication **www.narragunnawali.org.au/rap-submission-faqs**.

It will equip participants with ideas for monitoring, critically reflecting on, evaluating and celebrating RAP progress. So too will it support participants in understanding how the refresh process **www.narragunnawali.org.au/raf-referesh-faqs** can be responsively engaged with to ensure the RAP remains an active, living document well beyond its initial publication.

Facilitator: Reconciliation Australia

**Session 1: Writing a vision for Reconciliation**  
(Thursday 22 February)

**Session 2: Establishing a RAP working group and adding actions** (Thursday 18 April)



# November



## Embedding inclusion before you need to

### QA1: Educational program and practice

Thursday 7 November, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

City of Whittlesea, Council Offices, Fountain View Room,  
25 Ferres Boulevard, South Morang

[www.trybooking.com/CNNLJ](http://www.trybooking.com/CNNLJ)

Cost: Free

Join us for an insightful professional discussion on proactive measures for integrating children with additional needs into your classroom. Explore the art of preparing well in advance and learn more about creating effective strategies (and adapting them) to ensure inclusion within your learning environment and service. Engage in meaningful dialogue with experts in inclusion support who will share ideas that will help you ensure that every child's educational journey is one of learning, support and growth.

*Facilitator: Samantha Williams, Victorian Inclusion Agency  
(Community Child Care Association)*



## Training and Education 2024

Council welcomes your comments and suggestions on the training sessions and programs. To provide feedback or to promote parent, early years or youth training sessions in the Training and Education 2024, please contact the Training and Engagement Facilitator on 9217 2170 or email [familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

## Program cancellation and refund policy

The City of Whittlesea reserves the right to cancel a program.

Cancelled programs may be postponed and rescheduled to a new date.

If a program is cancelled, registrants will be offered a full refund.

If a program is postponed, those registered will be given the option of transferring their booking to the same program on the new date.

Cancelled or postponed programs: Those registered will be advised directly ASAP.

Rescheduled program: Those registered will be contacted with a new date and time. If the new date is unsuitable, a full refund will be offered upon request.

Cancellations received within 5 days of the date of the program will not be eligible for a refund.

Refunds will not be available for those who choose not to attend.



## Training and Education

25 Ferres Boulevard  
South Morang

For more information visit the individual  
trybooking link for the program, email  
[familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au](mailto:familytraining@whittlesea.vic.gov.au)  
or call us on **9217 2170**.

Booking is required.

For all programs please visit...



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Free telephone  
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Whittlesea**

[www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au)