

Gwynn Bridge

Gwynn Bridge has been an active member of state and national long day care association committees for over 30 years, holding many Executive positions during this time. Her most recent Executive positions were President of the Australian Childcare Alliance (ACA) (2016) and CEO of Australian Childcare Alliance Queensland (ACA Qld) (2015). Gwynn remains as a current Committee Member of ACA Qld.



Gwynn is also an Approved Provider of five early learning services, four in Queensland and one in Canberra. Throughout the years, Gwynn has represented the sector on many Government reference groups both National and State. In her current roles with ACA and ACA Qld, Gwynn works closely with all sides of Parliament to place before Government and Opposition members the plight of Approved Providers, families, children, educators and the community in an endeavour to ensure that we have an affordable, robust and sustainable childcare sector into the future.

Ms Gwynn Bridge is an advocate for children and their families, successful small business owner and inspirational leader of child care educators throughout Australia.

Gwynn was born in Dalby in 1948. She worked for the National Bank of Australia, an accountancy firm and a national building company, before she found her passion in childcare, received her Advanced Diploma in Early Childhood and purchased her first child care centre.

Gwynn has owned and operated early childhood education and care services for more than 30 years, has deep roots in her local community and is well known as a leader by her peers on issues relating to families and children. Her desire to ensure the wellbeing of children was a driving force behind entering the early childhood profession.

Gwynn also contributed significant time to causes that support families in Queensland, including nine years as Treasurer to the Gold Coast Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Woman's Refuge groups.

Gwynn currently operates five childcare centres, including four in Queensland and one located in the Australian Capital Territory.

Gwynn continues to be dedicated and passionate about the development of the sector and works tirelessly for childcare centre owners, teachers and educators nationally through the Australian Childcare Alliance.

Significant Achievement and Contribution to Queensland

Gwynn has contributed more to the childcare industry in Queensland and Australia than any other person and today remains heavily involved in all aspects of the sector on a primarily voluntary basis. Over a long period of time, her contributions are considered significant and have unified the sector, introduced significant reform and achieved better outcomes for families across Queensland.

Gwynn, in various leadership roles within the childcare industry, has worked with members of voluntary committees to:

- form the Childcare Industry Association of Queensland that later merged with Queensland Professional Childcare Centre Association (QPCCCA) to create Childcare Queensland (now ACA Qld), a not-for-profit, member-funded organisation, that has grown to represent the interests of more than 800 private providers of childcare services in Queensland;
- establish the Australian Childcare Alliance, a parent body across all jurisdictions, that works directly with the Australian Government to improve the quality and availability of childcare across Australia;
- develop Australia's largest annual conference for approved providers, early childhood teachers and educators in the child care sector that now involves more than 700 delegates and in excess of 70 trade/corporate partner displays each year;
- create Early Childhood Educators Day, held in September each year in Queensland to celebrate the contribution of early childhood educators to the welfare of children and their families; and
- establish a registered training organisation known as the College for Australian Early Childhood Educators to improve the quality of training, skills of new entrants into the workforce and safety of childcare services across Australia.

Gwynn works closely with all political parties to highlight the plight of owners and operators, families, children, staff and the community to ensure that Queensland and Australia has an affordable, robust and viable sector. She has also been heavily involved in advocating reform to the sector for more than 20 years, including the recent implementation of kindergarten within the long day care sector.

Her passion is in the provision of quality care and improving the educational outcomes of children. She is an advocate for the National Quality Framework and the importance of improving quality while maintaining the viability of the sector and ensuring education and care is accessible and affordable.

Exemplary and inspirational qualities

Gwynn is more than a successful owner and business woman. She has established herself as the leading voice of private sector childcare with government, industry and her peers. She instils confidence to those around her and she is a leader amongst leaders. She strengthens her reputation with her:

- ability to understand the issues of practitioners working with children, the needs of approved providers and business owners concerned about viability and her ability to link these to the ambitions of government;
- passion for providing children with exceptional learning experiences and for inspiring others in the sector to appreciate the value of their contribution to the lives of children and their families;
- work ethic in all aspects of life, driven by a dedication for outcomes from children;
- commitment to diplomacy representing the interests of her peers and dealing with all stakeholders across the child care industry;
- collaborative approach to working with governments;
- creativity in her approach to early childhood education and care;
- leadership and mentoring, including supporting staff and peers to understand regulations, practices and in sharing her own approaches to help others; and
- pursuit of excellence in businesses and the associations she represents.