

**Graham Francis**

Principal Policy Officer, Early Childhood Services, Department of Education and Children's Services

Until recently Graham worked within the Early Childhood Development Strategy team of DECS. Currently he is a leadership consultant with the South Australian Centre for Leaders in Education.

He has worked as a teacher and leader in R-7 schools with a special interest in curriculum development and social justice. Graham further developed his interests in early childhood with significant experience as a district coordinator using action research approaches to investigate effective transition of learners from one phase of education to the next. As a leader-consultant at the corporate level he has focused on curriculum implementation, the status and approaches to teacher professional learning and performance management.

His key professional interests are in project planning, management and evaluation; coaching in approaches to professional learning and development; and policy strategy and development. Graham feels passionately about using responsive and flexible approaches to bring people together to achieve organisational goals and objectives and support them to feel productive and well satisfied with their efforts.

**Naomi Arnold**

A/Director, Early Childhood Development Strategy, Early Childhood Services, Department of Education and Children's Services

Naomi Arnold began her career as an early childhood educator and influenced innovative practices in teaching and learning through her role as the principal of junior primary and primary schools in the northern suburbs of Adelaide. As District Superintendent and District Director for schools, preschools and early childhood services from birth to year 12, Naomi has had responsibility for local intervention and innovative reform with a focus on improved outcomes for children and students.

As an educator within the Department of Education and Children's Services, Naomi has had experience in the development of policy to support the implementation of programs and practices for children and students in disadvantaged communities.

Naomi is currently the Director for the Early Childhood Development Strategy with a specific focus on the development of children's centres within DECS. Naomi is a strong advocate for integrated services that support the developmental needs of children and families.