

# Gladstone Region Early Childhood Coordinator

## What is an Early Childhood Coordinator?

Daniel Wooldridge has been appointed as an Early Childhood Coordinator (ECC) for the Gladstone region under the Queensland Government's "Putting Queensland Kids First" initiative. The aim is to improve pathways and connections for families experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage, helping them access early childhood education, health, and development services for children aged 0-8 years of age. ECCs will work across existing child, family, and community services to identify and support children and families, guiding them into early childhood services, supported playgroups, and ensuring a successful transition to school.

## The ECC initiative aims to support children and their parents/carers by:

- Increasing access to health checks and immunisations
- Boosting participation in playgroups
- Enhancing access and participation in Early Years Services (EYS), including Early Years Places
- Improving attendance at kindergarten
- Increasing the number of families accessing supports
- Facilitating early identification and diagnosis of learning and development needs
- Strengthening networks and referrals between services and schools
- Ensuring successful transitions from home to early childhood settings and to school

## The Family Support Category aims to achieve outcomes such as:

- Increase awareness and engagement of parents/carers with their child's learning, wellbeing and development
- Enhance secure attachment between children and their parents/carers
- Improve parental capabilities and confidence in parenting
- Higher rates of children developmentally on track
- Greater community connection and access to the right services at the right time, including playgroup and kindergarten
- Expanded local access to a range of family and early years programs that reflect the current contexts of Queensland families, available in various formats to support differing needs

Daniel is also a PEDS-R certified practitioner, trained to use the Parents' Evaluation of Developmental Status - Revised (PEDS-R) tool. This evidence-based method helps detect and address developmental, behavioural, and social-emotional/mental health concerns in children under eight years old.

Through these efforts, Daniel is dedicated to providing every child with a strong foundation for positive development and well-being.

### Daniel Wooldridge

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