



THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RUDOLF STEINER EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION INC.

ABN 16 702 580 046

NURTURING CHILDHOOD THROUGH THE
DEEPENING & RENEWING
OF STEINER - WALDORF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Aims and Objectives of the Association

- Supporting Rudolf Steiner/ Waldorf early childhood education in Australia and worldwide
- Organising professional conferences in Australia
- Producing/disseminating information and educational resources
- Providing advice and support for new initiatives
- Supporting training and professional development of teachers/carers
- Working together with Steiner Education Australia (SEA) and with the International Association for Steiner/ Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE).
- For more information
- www.iaswece.org www.steinereducation.edu.au
www.allianceforchildhood.org

Who We Are

The Association had its beginning in 1985 when early childhood teachers convened the first national meeting, called the *Vital Years Early Childhood Conference*, of teachers and educators. These conferences were held every second year. In 1991, the decision was made to form an Association with the aim of representing, nurturing and safeguarding Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education.

In order to support and connect educators working in various states and regions around Australia, regional representatives are selected by the members. Their task is to bring local members together in regular meetings, to share information and organise workshops locally, and to exchange and deepen the work in Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education and care. The regional representatives, together with other office bearers, form the committee of the Association. The Committee acts as the board of the Association, and administers and manages its affairs.

The office bearers are Chairperson, Secretary, Public Officer/Treasurer and Membership Registrar.

How Do We Work?

The work of the Association is done on a voluntary basis. Membership subscriptions are used to further the aims and objectives of the Association.

The Regional Representatives of the current seven Regions are experienced, senior teachers and are initial contact persons for enquiries and for mentoring. They are responsible for organising regular meetings at least twice each year, and regional seminars. The Vital Years is the main Australian biennial event; Regions alternate in hosting this conference. Regional Representatives send reports about their region to the Association's newsletter, *Star Weavings*, so that the members are informed about the initiatives and training that take place around the country. Members also have the opportunity to contribute articles or reports or examples of their work.

Regional Representatives also distribute information from IASWECE about international conferences, research projects, new publications and international working groups.

The Australian Association may provide financial assistance to members to attend national and/or international conferences. Applications are individually assessed by the committee. Each year the committee allocates a certain amount for this purpose to each region.

Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education in Today's World

There are now more than 3000 Steiner early childhood centres and 1000 Steiner schools around the world, and new initiatives are starting continuously in eastern Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Each organisation operates independently, but is united in the acknowledgement of the spiritual origin of each human being, in the understanding of the stages of child development which underpin Steiner/ Waldorf education, and in the nurturing of the child's innate ability to play and the child's imagination.

As part of a worldwide movement (IASWECE), and as a partner of the international Alliance for Childhood, the Australian Association for Rudolf Steiner Early Childhood Education is working to protect childhood. This

includes promoting healthy development for children, the establishment of places where children can be given time and space to develop at their own pace, to explore and to play, and to follow their own inner initiative.

How to become a member

Individual Membership:

Individuals who wish to support the work of the association and become part of a professional network may join at any time. Annual membership fees are \$50 per financial year. The procedure and application form is located on this website <http://www.steinereducation.edu.au/about/associate-members/>

Institutional Membership/ Developing Membership:

Kindergartens and preschools that are attached to an SEA member school and want to also become members of the early childhood Association make application using the institutional membership application form located on the above website. An observation visit by the regional representative or a person delegated by the committee will follow after the application has been received. Please contact your Regional Representative for more information and the fee structure.

Once the organisation has become a member of AARSECE they will be listed on the register of Steiner/ Waldorf early childhood institutions worldwide. This acknowledges that they have met the standards set by the international association, IASWECE.

Guidelines for institutional membership for early childhood settings with children aged birth to three, for long day care and for family day care are currently being developed.

Publications

Star Weavings, the Association's newsletter, grew out of a need to strengthen communication between those working with the child under seven, both in Rudolf Steiner schools and in the wider community. The weaving image was chosen to represent strength through a common foundation of Rudolf Steiner's indications (the warp) and enrichment and enlivening through individuals sharing of their work (the weft). It is currently under review, and will be freely available to members via a Star Weavings link, posted by the end of September 2016. The September issue will initially provide information about the Star Weavings link, and be distributed to members and non-members whose contact details have

been provided to the Regional Representative. Subsequent issues will be distributed only to members of the Association by the Regional Representatives, or the Star Weavings contact person listed below.

Committee Contacts as of September 2016:

Office Bearers:

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Chairperson

Treasurer and Public
Officer

Membership Registrar

Secretary and

Star Weavings Contact

Regional Representatives:

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Member of the International Association for Steiner/Waldorf Early
Childhood Education - IASWECE

Associate Member of Steiner Education Australia (SEA)

Partner of the Alliance for Childhood Network