Dr Karen McLean

A: Institute for Learning Sciences & Teacher Education, Melbourne Campus
Level 1, 232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC 3000
Locked Bag 4115, Fitzroy MDC, Fitzroy VIC 3065
T: +61 0 419 918 990
E: karen.mclean@acu.edu.au
O: http://orcid.org/0000-0003-0332-6914

Work history

Position	Organisation	Years
Senior Lecturer/Researcher	Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education (ILSTE), Australian Catholic University	2014 - Current
Researcher	Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education (ILSTE), Australian Catholic University	2012 - Current
Academic Lecturer	Australian Catholic University	2005 - 2014
Part time Primary teacher (Early Years)	Emmaus Catholic Primary School	2009
Primary teacher (Early Years) / Reading Recovery trained teacher / Music specialist / ICT specialist	Canadian Lead Primary School	1993 - 2005
Primary teacher (Early Years)	Richard Street Primary School	1989 - 1990
Primary teacher	Brown Hill Primary School	1988
Music teacher	Wedge Park Primary School	1987 - 1988

Education

Qualifications	Organisation	Completed
Doctor of Philosophy	Australian Catholic University	2012
Master of Education	University of Ballarat	2002
Bachelor of Education Primary	University of Ballarat	1996
Diploma of Teaching Primary	Ballarat College of Advanced Education	1987

Thesis

McLean, K. (2012). *A story of early years educators' experiences of technology and literacy in early years learning environments*. Australian Catholic University.

Fields of educational expertise

- Early years literacy
- Digital technologies in the early years
- Working with families in early childhood and primary education
- Children's literature

Expertise in qualitative, quantitative and mixed research design methodologies
- Qualitative research – case study, developmental work research methods, interviews and social media data
- Mixed methods – interview and document analysis, survey
- Inductive and deductive data analysis

Research supervision fields
- Learning for contemporary times
- Australian playgroup provision
- Digital technologies
- Young children's play-based learning
- Early years literacy pedagogies

Funded research

Competitive grants

Year	Grants	Funding
2018-2020	Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Research Award (DE180100531): McLean, K., *Caregiver learning about play in community playgroups and social media.*	$369,996
2017-2019	Australian Research Council Linkage Project with Partner Organisation Playgroup Victoria. *A best practice framework for playgroups-in-schools.* Chief Investigators: Edwards, McLean, Healy, Evangelou, Henderson, Nolan, Skouteris	$156,000
2013	ACU Learning & Teaching Centre [LTC]. Chief Investigators: Scott, Jones, McLean, Sheely e-Learning Facilitation: *Fostering communities of pedagogical practice at ACU*	$5,000
2011	ACU School Staff Research Support Scheme Seeding Grant [SSRS]. Chief Investigators: McNamara, McLean iPad's™ in Pre-service Teacher Education	$10,000
2011	ACU School Staff Research Support Scheme Seeding Grant [SSRS] Chief Investigators: Jones, McLean, Schaper Children's Literature as a Springboard to Science Inquiry in the Early Years	$4,000
2008	ACU Industry Research Incentive Scheme (ACU-IRIS) Chief Investigators: McLean, de Souza An Investigation of the impact of the project: An Act of Kindness on school communities	$2,800
2006-2007	Australian Federal Govt Dept of Education Science and Training: Quality Teacher Program Chief Investigators: McNamara, Jones, McLean Partnerships in ICT Learning National Project	$21,000

Research consultancies

Year	Research
2016	Zip tales Professional learning for Teachers (Australasia) webinar series *Literacy Lessons from Tell Tales*
2014	REPLAY Consultancy Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services (MACS) Literacy and technology in early childhood. March - July 2014.
2013	Consultancy United Way Rollout of Imagination Library in 2014
2013	Consultancy Playgroup Victoria: Placing playgroups within the curriculum of early childhood

Other funded research

Year	Research	Funding
2015-2016	Playgroup Victoria Chief Investigators: McLean, Edwards Promoting the provision of parental provided play-activities in transition playgroups	$15,000
2015-2016	Playgroup Victoria Chief Investigators: McLean, Edwards Community playgroups – Connecting rural families locally	$15,000
2013-2014	Ballarat City Council (CS & CSP) Chief Investigators: McLean, Edwards Supported playgroups in schools: stakeholder perspectives on belonging, home learning and young children's play	$70,000
2012	Catholic Education Office Ballarat (CS & CSP) Chief Investigators: McLean, Edwards Bringing Playgroups into Schools (Category 2)	$15,000

Publications

Books

Jones, M., & McLean, K. (2018). *Personalising learning in teacher education*. Singapore: Springer.

McLachlan, C., Edwards, S., Margrain, V., & McLean, K. (2013). *Children's learning and development: Contemporary assessment in the early years*. Melbourne, Australia: Palgrave Macmillan.

Book chapters

McLean, K. (2017). Anticipating future literacy teacher practice: Using reflective practice to foster confidence and competence to teach literacy in primary and early childhood contexts. In R. Brandenburg, J. Ryan, K. Glasswell, & M. Jones (Eds.), *Reflective theory and practice in teacher education practice* (pp.119-140). Singapore: Springer.

Edwards, S., & McLean, K. & Lambert, P. (2017). Fostering children's everyday mathematical knowledge through caregiver participation in supported playgroups in schools. In S. Phillipson, P. Sullivan, & A. Gervasoni (Eds.), *Engaging families as the first mathematics educators of children* (pp. 235-246). Singapore: Springer. doi:10.1007/978-981-10-2553-2_14

McLean, K. (2017). Literacy, technology and early years education: Building sustainable practice. In C. McLachlan & A. Arrow (Eds.), *Literacy in the early years – Reflections on international research and practice* (pp. 239-257). Singapore: Springer.

McLean, K., & Edwards, S. (2016). Beginning the conversations about young children's engagement with technology in contemporary times. In S. Garvis & N. Lemon (Eds.), *Understanding digital technologies and young children: An international perspective* (pp. 155-165). Oxon, UK: Routledge.

Articles

McLean, K. (2020). Using the sociocultural concept of learning activity to understand parents' learning about play in community playgroups and social media. *British Journal of Educational Research Online, 1-17*. doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2020.1724258

McLean, K. Edwards, S. Mantilla, A. (2020). A review of community playgroup participation. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, 45*(2), 155-169. doi.org/10.1177/1836939120918484

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Evangelou, M., & Lambert, P. (2018). Supported Playgroups in Schools: Bonding and bridging family knowledge about transition to formal schooling. *Cambridge Journal of Education*, *48*(2), 157-175. doi.org/10.1080/0305764X.2016.1268569

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Evangelou, M., Skouteris, H., Harrison, L.J., Hemphill, S.A., Sullivan, P., & Lambert, P. (2017). Playgroups as sites for parental education. *Journal of Early Childhood Research*, 15(3), 227-237. doi.org/10.1177/1476718X15595753

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Morris, H. (2017). Community playgroup social media and parental learning about play. *Computers & Education*, *115*, 201-210. doi.org/10.1016/j.compedu.2017.08.004 (FEA 'A').

McLean, K. (2016). The implementation of bring your own device (BYOD) in primary [elementary] schools, *Frontiers in Psychology, 7*(1739), 1-3. doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2016.01739

McLean, K., Jones, M., & Schaper, C. (2015). Children's literature as an invitation to science. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood,40*(4): 49-56.

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Colliver, Y., & Schaper, C. (2014). Supported playgroups in schools: What matters for caregivers and their children. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, 39*(4), 73-80. (FEA 'A')

McLean, K. (2013). Literacy and technology in the early years of education: Looking to the familiar to inform educator practice. *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood, 38*(4), 30-41.

Jones, M. & McLean, K. (2012). Personalising learning in teacher education through the use of technology. *Australian Journal of Teacher Education*, *37*(1), 75-92.

de Souza, M., & McLean, K. (2012): Bullying and violence: changing an act of disconnectedness into an act of kindness. *Pastoral Care in Education: An International Journal of Personal, Social and Emotional Development*, *30*(2), 165-180.

Reports

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Lambert, P., Gibson, B., & Hallowell, L. (2016). *Promoting the provision of parental provided play-activities in transition playgroups*. A Research Report Prepared for Playgroup Victoria. Melbourne, VIC: Australian Catholic University.

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Morris, H., Hallowell, L., & Swinkels, K. (2016). *Community playgroups – Connecting rural families locally*. A Research Report Prepared for Playgroup Victoria. Melbourne, VIC: Australian Catholic University.

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Lambert., P., Wickham, D., & Schaper, C. (2015). *Supported playgroups in schools: Stakeholder perspectives on belonging, home learning and young children's play*. Melbourne, VIC: Australian Catholic University.

McLean, K., Edwards, S., Schaper, C., & Colliver, Y. (2013). Connecting Schools and *Communities through Supported Playgroups*. Melbourne, VIC: Australian Catholic University.

McLean, K. & de Souza, M. *An investigation of the impact of the project: An Act of Kindness on school communities – A pilot study*. Report to Act of Kindness Foundation, Australia, 2009.

McNamara, S., Jones, M., & McLean, K. *Stories in ICT professional development*. Report to Department of Science Education and Training, Canberra, Australia, 2007.

Other

McLean, K. (2013). Towards a model for 21st century literacy learning in the early years classroom. *PETAA paper 191*. Sydney, Australia: Primary English Teaching Association. (Premier teacher organization in Asia Pacific).

McLean, K. (2010). Review of the book by Sherwood, P. (2008). Emotional literacy: the heart of classroom management, by Patricia Sherwood, Camberwell, ACER Press, 2008, *International Journal of Children's Spirituality*, 15: 2, 189-197.

Scholarly contributions

2019	Parenting Research Centre – External Media Expert
2019	Expert Advisor role. AMAZE (2019). Autism and Inclusion at Kindergarten. Inclusive Autism resource for early childhood teachers funded by Department of Education and Training Victoria.
2018	Playgroup Research: Building the Evidence Base, Co-hosted Research Event - Playgroup Queensland and Institute for Learning Sciences and Teacher Education (ILSTE), Australian Catholic University (ACU), 1st November 2018, ACU, ILSTE, Brisbane.
2018	Playgroup Australia Royal Commission Forum, 490 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson, ACT Wednesday 20th June 2018.
2017	Keynote speaker Monash Children's Centre AGM. Learning for Contemporary times: Digital technologies in Early Childhood (26 March 2017)
2016	ABC Radio BabyTalk interview with Penny Johnston 30 November – Community Playgroups – Connecting Families Locally
2014	DEECD STEM Early Years Round Table, Stamford Hotel Melbourne, 24 March 2014.
2014	Invited keynote with Prof. Susan Edwards at Ballarat Kindergarten Teachers Association Annual Conference
2014	Keynote speaker for HDR evening ACU 28 March 2014
2013	Keynote GCH Region CMH nurses. Presentation Digital kids and their digital worlds: Conditions of learning in the 21st century (7 September, 2013).

2012	Keynote for Teachers of Young Learners [TOYL] Ballarat Digital kids and their digital worlds: Ramifications for our young learners. Presentation at the Ballarat Campus of Australian Catholic University.
2012	ABC radio interview with Dominic Brine Connecting Schools and Communities through Supported Playgroups Research (11th December, 2012).
2008	ABC National radio with Dominic Brine (5th August, 2008) National Early Childhood Reforms.

Service roles

| 2018-current | Australian Research Council (ARC) – Assessor. |
| 2018 | Excellence in Research in Australia (ERA) – Peer reviewer |

Invited Reviewer

- Springer
- Peer review journals
  - Computers & Education
  - Australasian Journal of Early Childhood
  - Asia-Pacific Journal of Teacher Education
  - Journal of Early Childhood Literacy
  - Journal of Early Childhood Research
  - Journal of Family Studies
  - Educational Policy
  - Language and Education
  - Journal of Social Policy
  - Learning Media and Technology
  - Frontiers in Psychology
  - Evaluation and Program Planning
  - Journal of Social Policy
  - Child and Youth Services Review
  - Australian Occupational Therapy Journal
  - Evaluation and Program Planning
  - Pedagogy Culture and Society

Awards

- Learning Sciences Institute of Australia, Australian Catholic University, Recognition of Research Excellence Award (2018).
- Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Community Engagement (2013).
- Australian Catholic University (ACU) prize for the most outstanding doctoral thesis (2012).
- Summa Cum Laude for PhD thesis: A story of early years educators' experiences of technology and literacy in early years learning environments.
- OLT citation for Contribution to Student Learning: for building community partnerships that provide inspiring contexts for highly successful learning and teaching of primary school literacy education (2012).

Service internal

2016	Australian Catholic University Acting Deputy Head of School, Faculty of Education and Arts Ballarat campus, June (4 weeks; October-November 5 Weeks)
2015-2018	Australian Catholic University Staff Consultative Committee Elected Academic Representative
2016-2018	Australian Catholic University Academic Promotions Committee Elected Academic Representative
2016-2017	Australian Catholic University Campus Discipline Committee
2014	Australian Catholic University Faculty Board
2014	Australian Catholic University Campus Committee

2014-2016	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Education Assessment Review Committee
2014	Quality Review Oversight Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary National Accreditation
2013	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Education Literacy Team Leader
2013	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Education Learning and Teaching Committee
2013	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Education External Advisory Committee to Professional Experience Programs
2011-2012	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Health Sciences Course Development Committee *Bachelor of Speech Pathology*
2011-2014	Australian Catholic University Course Development Committee Master of Teaching Early Childhood Birth to Five Years, Master of Teaching Early Years and Master of Early Childhood Education
2010-2014	Australian Catholic University Course Implementation Committee Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary
2010-2013	Australian Catholic University Course Review Committee Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary
2010-2011	Australian Catholic University Open Day Committee
2009-2010	Australian Catholic University Course Coordinator Bachelor of Education Primary
2009	Australian Catholic University Staff and Resources Working Group
2008-2009	Australian Catholic University Ballarat Campus Social Concerns Committee
2008-2011	Australian Catholic University Faculty of Education Assessment Review Committee
2008	Australian Catholic University Chair External Course Development Committee with external stakeholders Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary
2007-2012	Australian Catholic University State Course Coordinator Bachelor of Education Early Childhood and Primary
2006-2008	Australian Catholic University Course Advisor Bachelor of Education Primary

Service external

2016-2017	Australian Association of Research in Education (AARE) Technology and Learning Convener
2013-2015	Municipal Early Years Plan Committee – Literacy and Numeracy
2012-2015	Municipal Early Years Plan Committee – Early Childhood
2009-2015	Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Advisory Group providing input into VEYLDF and national EYLF.