Résumé Summary - Ms Janise Mitchell

CEO - Australian Childhood Foundation

Director - Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care

Adjunct Associate Professor, Centre for Children and Young People, Southern Cross University

CAREER SUMMARY

Janise is the CEO at the Australian Childhood Foundation and Director of the Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care. She has a Master of Social Work (Research) in the area of therapeutic care policy and program development. Janise is also an Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Arts and Social Sciences at Southern Cross University. She is is a founding Board Member of the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse and Board member of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (Vic).

Janise has extensive experience in child protection, child abuse prevention, youth justice, high risk adolescents, public policy analysis, program development and evaluation. Janise has led the development of innovative therapeutic programs for traumatised children and young people who have experienced child abuse and family violence. She has been instrumental in the conceptualisation, development and implementation of the therapeutic models of foster, kinship, residential and secure care across Australia. She has been instrumental in advocating for the needs of children and young people.

She has overseen the development and implementation of major statewide professional education and workforce development programs. Janise has also overseen the accreditation of the Australian Childhood Foundation as a Registered Training Organisation and the development of the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma. She has also been pivotal in the Foundation's national child abuse prevention and early intervention parenting programs.

Janise is an invited speaker on the need for trauma transformative services for children and young people impacted by all forms of abuse and violence, children's rights, online sexual exploitation and workforce capacity building initiatives at national and international conferences.

She has established expertise working in advocacy and co-design processes alongside children, young people and adults with lived and living experience of violence and exploitation in achieving legal and systems change, program and service design and the centring of children and young people's voices.

Janise has held roles on international, national and state level advisory groups addressing the needs of children and young people impacted by all forms of violence. Janise is also known for her extensive research and publications in the area of trauma transformative practice, innovation and the needs of children and young people impacted by violence, abuse and exploitation.

QUALIFICATIONS

2008	Master of Social Work (research) Monash University
1998	Bachelor of Social Work, Melbourne University

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

March 2024 – present	CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation
Dec 2010 – March 2024	Deputy CEO, Australian Childhood Foundation
July 2018 – present	Director, Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care
August 2019 – current	Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Southern Cross University
April 1999 – Dec 2010	National Manager, Education, Prevention and Therapeutic Care, Australian Childhood Foundation
March 1997 – March 1998	Senior Program Adviser, Placement and Support Services, Department of Human Services, Eastern Region
Nov 1996 – March 1997	Senior Child Counsellor, Australians Against Child Abuse
Dec 1988 - March 1996	Range of positions within Statutory Child Protection, Department of Human Services, Victoria in practice, management and policy

BOARD POSITIONS:

2024 – present	Board Member, Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, Victoria and Tasmania
2021 – present	Founding Board Member, National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse
2010-2013	Board Director, YMCA NSW
2007-2010	Vice President, Australian Huntington's Disease Association
2006-2007	Board Member, Australian Huntington's Disease Association

PUBLICATIONS:

Day, K., McPherson, L., Gatwiri, K., Mitchell, J. Canosa, A., Moore, T, Gilligan, R. and Graham, A. (2026). **Lived experiences of First Nations children in Therapeutic Residential Care,** Child Abuse & Neglect, 171, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107816

McPherson, L., Gatwiri, K., Vosz, M., MacNamara, N., Mitchell, J. and Tucci, J. (2025). **Approaches to Assessment and Intervention with Children and Young People who have Experienced Child Sexual Abuse: A Review of Reviews**, Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma https://doi.org/10.1007/s40653-025-00702-4

Tucci, J. Mitchell, J, Porges, S. and Tronick, E. (2024). **From Trauma Informed to Trauma Integrated Applications in Practice – Creating sustained relational change in the lives of vulnerable children, families and communities.** Jessica Kingsley, London.

McPherson, L., Canosa, A., Gatwiri, K., Anderson, D., Day, K., Gilligan, R., Graham, A., Mitchell, J., Moore, t., Vosz, M. (2024) **How is therapeutic residential care constructed within key policy documents?** Australian Journal of Social Issues, https://doi.org/10.1002/ajs4.372

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2022). Still unseen and ignored: Tracking Community Knowledge and Attitudes about Child Abuse and Child Protection in Australia. **Frontiers in Psychology**, 02 September 2022, Volume 13 - 2022 | https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.860212.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Thomas, L. (2020). **A Lasting Legacy – The impact of COVID-19 on children and parents.** Australian Childhood Foundation, Melbourne.

Macnamara, N., Mitchell, J. and Tucci, J. (2020). **Practice Guide: Care Teams – Collaborative processes for creating healing and change.** Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Bristow, G., Macnamara, N. and Mitchell, J. (2020). **Practice Guide: Creating a balance between empowerment and limit setting in therapeutic care**. Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Mitchell, J. (2019). **Practice Guide: Creating positive social climates and home-like environments in therapeutic care**. Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Mitchell, J., Tucci, J. and Tronick, E. (2019). **The Handbook of Therapeutic Care for Children – Evidence Informed Approaches to Working with Traumatised Children and Adolescents in Foster, Kinship and Adoptive Care**. Jessica Kingsley, London.

Mitchell, J. and Macnamara, N. (2019). **Practice Guide The 10 Essential Elements of Intensive Therapeutic Care in NSW**. Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Mitchell, J. and Macnamara, N. (2019). **Practice Guide: The Role of the Therapeutic Specialist in Intensive Therapeutic Care.** Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Macnamara, N. and Mitchell, J. (2019). **Practice Guide: Reflective Practice: Enhancing Practice in Therapeutic Care**. Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care: Sydney NSW.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2019). Therapeutic services for traumatised children and young people healing. **In R. Benjamin, J. Haliburn and S. King (Eds.), Humanising Mental Health Care in Australia: A Guide to Trauma-informed Approaches.** Routledge, London.

Tucci, J., Weller, A and Mitchell, J. (2018). Realizing “deep” safety for children who have experienced abuse: Application of polyvagal theory in therapeutic work with traumatized children and young people. In S. Porges and D. Dana (Eds.), **Clinical applications of the polyvagal theory: The emergence of polyvagal-informed therapies.** New York, NY: W.W. Norton, pp. 89-105.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2018). **Building community capacity to end violence – A Practice framework for NPY Women’s Council**, Australian Childhood Foundation, Melbourne.

McPherson, L., Gatwiri, K. Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Macnamara, N. (2018). A paradigm shift in responding to children who have experienced trauma: The Australian Treatment and Care for Kids Program, **Children and Youth Services Review**, 94, 525-534.

Gatwiri, K., McPherson, L., Macnamara, N., Mitchell, J. and Tucci, J. (2018). From Adversity to Stability to Integration: how One Australian Program is Making a Difference in Therapeutic Foster Care, **Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma**.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2017). Weaving Trauma into the Everyday – Neuroscience, Evidence and Reflections from Practice. **Children Australia, 42, 73-74.**

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2017). **Building a Practice Framework to Break Cycles of Significant Disadvantage through the Youth and Homelessness Services provided by MercyCare**. Australian Childhood Foundation and MercyCare.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2015). **The collective endeavour of interpreting neuroscience–A collection of Australian based trauma informed research and practice**. Children Australia, 40, 165-166.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2015). **Consilience in Action: Lessons from an International Childhood Trauma Conference.** Children Australia, 40, 93-94.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J., Holmes, D., Hemsworth, C., Hemsworth, L. (2015). Constructing a child protection policy to support a safeguarding children culture in organisations and institutions. **Children Australia**.

Tucci, J. and Mitchell, J. (2014). **Safe and Secure – A trauma informed model for responding to children forced to live with family violence**. Australian Childhood Foundation, Melbourne.

Mitchell, J. (2009). **A Case Study in Attempted Reform in Out of Home Care: A Preliminary Examination of the Introduction of the Circle Therapeutic Foster Care Program in Victoria** – MSW (Research) Thesis, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (November, 2009). **Doing Nothing Hurts Children: Tracking Australian community attitudes about child abuse and child protection.** Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (May, 2008). **Children's Sense of Safety: Children's experiences of childhood in contemporary Australia.** Australian Childhood Foundation and the Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (September, 2006). **Crossing the Line: Making the case for changing Australian laws about the physical punishment of children.** Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (July, 2006). **Every Child Needs a Hero: A report tracking Australian children's attitudes and concerns about childhood.** Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (April, 2006). **Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Tracking Australian community attitudes about child abuse and child protection.** Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia, Monash University, Melbourne.

Staiger, P., Kambouropoulos, N., Evertsz, J., Mitchell, J. and Tucci, J. (September, 2005). **A preliminary evaluation of the Transformers Program for children who engage in problem sexual behaviour.** Australian Childhood Foundation and the School of Psychology, Deakin University, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C. (April, 2005). **The Changing Face of Parenting: Exploring the attitudes of parents in contemporary Australia.** Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Goddard, C., and Mitchell, J. (2004). **Do not turn away – Tracking Tasmanian community attitudes about children, child abuse and child protection.** Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Melbourne.

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C.R. (2004). **The concerns of Australian parents.** Australian Childhood Foundation and the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse, Melbourne.

Mitchell, J., Tucci, J. and Goddard, C.R. (2003). **An evaluation of the statewide Children in Homelessness Program.** Child Abuse and Family Violence Research Unit, Monash University and Australian Childhood Foundation

Tucci, J., Mitchell, J. and Goddard, C.R. (2003). **Tolerating violence towards children – Community attitudes about child abuse and child protection.** Child Abuse and Family Violence Research Unit, Monash University and Australian Childhood Foundation.

Tucci, J., Goddard, C., Mitchell, J. (2001) **More Action – Less Talk: Community Responses to Child Abuse Prevention,** Australians Against Child Abuse, Melbourne.