

## ***Judith Duncan Award for Early Childhood Education Research***



*Tara McLaughlin*

*Massey University*

Dr. Tara McLaughlin, PhD, is a researcher and educator with over a decade of experience in early childhood education. Tara's research track record, funded projects, dissemination work and other achievements position her as a high-performing researcher, who demonstrates established leadership of early childhood research at Massey University, and growing leadership in the wider ECE community through local, national and international research partnerships and projects.

The influence and impact of Tara's work is directly experienced in New Zealand and the United States, reflecting the continued partnerships that Tara has maintained with US colleagues alongside the comprehensive work she is doing in New Zealand. Tara's research outputs demonstrate rigour in the conduct of high-quality research and emphasise the translation of research to ensure direct relevance for and impact on practice.

Tara has drawn together a range of academics and practitioners across diverse projects to work together and generate research that is practice focused and evidence based. Her ability to create opportunities, identify the strengths and capacity of others, and draw people together for research collaborations that influence practice and policy is a hallmark of her work. The contribution and impact of her work is already substantial at this early point in her career.