



Information for the Study Group to Reggio Emilia, Italy – April 2024

1. The Municipal Preschools and Infant Toddler Centres, Reggio Emilia

The Municipal early childhood programs in Reggio Emilia, Northern Italy, for children aged three months to six years, are internationally acclaimed for the inspirations, challenges, and provocations they provide for all those concerned with the care and education of young children. Founded and developed by educational theorist, Loris Malaguzzi, the schools demonstrate a distinctive and innovative curriculum and pedagogy as well as a method of school organisation which recognises the potential of young children to question, reflect, problem-solve, theorise and experiment.

The schools in Reggio Emilia demonstrate, by making children's learning visible, that children are capable of devising creative ways of knowing, understanding and making connections and meaning. There is a particular emphasis on the role of the environment, both social and physical, and the cultural, geographic, political, economic and historical experiences of Reggio Emilia are incorporated into learnings. This history, combined with the theories, ideas and practices in the schools are always changing and evolving, meaning that the schools cannot provide a model for practice in Australia. Accordingly, they offer an inspiration for our own thinking and practice.

2. The Study Program – April 2024

- The study program will **commence on Sunday 14 April** with a meeting of the Australian delegation at the Astoria Hotel at 1.30pm.
- The program will then continue on **Monday 15 April** at the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre, which is within walking distance from the Astoria Hotel or a short taxi ride. The program **concludes on the evening of Friday 19 April**. Click [here](#) for information about how to get around Reggio Emilia.
- Lectures will be in either English or Italian. An interpreter will be available whenever the Italian language is to be used.
- The study program fee will include:
 - the organisation of the program by Reggio Children
 - presentations by and meetings with pedagogistas, teachers, administrators and parents;
 - visits to Infant Toddler Centres and Preschools of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia only and exclusively if the health conditions in force in Italy at the time of the visit allow it, together with the authorisation decided and issued by the Preschools and Infant-toddler centres – Istituzione of the Municipality of Reggio Emilia;
 - a folder for each participant with information materials concerning the town of Reggio Emilia, its municipal infant toddler-centre and preschool experience and Reggio Children;
 - Italian-English consecutive interpreters when required by the program;
 - private bus transportation from and to the centres in Reggio Emilia if and as required by the program;
 - coffee breaks;
 - 5 lunches at PAUSE;
 - Two Study Group Leaders from REAIE will accompany the group;
 - Late afternoon 'get togethers' will be organised with the Study Group Leaders and REAIE participants;
 - Study Group Leaders are 'on call' throughout the Study Group to assist REAIE participants.



- Full program details will be emailed to participants shortly before departure.
- There will be an online opportunity for delegates to meet each other and the Study Group Leaders. This will be held approximately one month prior to departure.
- Reading materials are provided to participants prior to departure from Australia to assist with preparation for the Study Group and to facilitate learning.
- General travel advice and tips are given to the group prior to departure from Australia.
- REAIE's Operational Team are available for any questions or concerns in the lead up to the tour's departure and to answer any queries while you are away.

PLEASE NOTE: Delegates must not photograph and/or videotape inside the infant-toddler centres and preschools of Reggio Emilia. Additionally, photos or videos must not be taken of the presentations as well as of the panels and videos inside the Exhibition area and the Atelier at the International Centre Loris Malaguzzi.

3. General Information

- Accompanying people are welcome to be part of the group, however, they will not be able to participate in the study program.
- It should be noted that the program is usually very intensive, including evening sessions.
- The program is carefully planned to provide a sequence of knowledge building and it is therefore crucial to attend each session.
- A group accommodation booking for Australian delegates has been made at the Astoria Hotel in the inner city. While this is by no means compulsory, there are many advantages of being together in a group: daily communications, including any changes to the program or to travel arrangements are easy when everyone is together; people also make friends and form small groups that support discussion during the study program and open possibilities for sightseeing, sharing mealtimes and providing support for each other. Past feedback suggests that this enhances the whole Study Group experience and is worthwhile.

4. Travelling to Italy

Delegates are to make their own travel arrangements. The Study Group Leaders will be traveling with **Qantas and Emirates Airlines** arranged through **DQ International Travel Service**. Departure is available from all Australian capital cities on **Tuesday 9 April 2024** and travel via Dubai (where delegates can meet up) and then on to Bologna.

If you are travelling independently, it is recommended that participants arrive no later than Saturday 13 April 2024. To contact **DQ International Travel Service**, please call Damian Quirk **03 9614 4588** or email **travel@dqinternational.com.au**. Damian is also able to organise travel with other airlines and incorporate other travel arrangements and tours. When deciding how best to book your travel, please consider that booking through a travel agent means that any issues that may arise before or during your travel will have the assistance of an agent. Without a travel agent, you are on your own.

5. Getting to Reggio Emilia, from Bologna or Milan

- The best way to reach Reggio Emilia by public transport is by train - half an hour from Bologna or two hours from Milan. There is a bus from most airports to a railway station. Reggio Emilia is conveniently situated for travel by train to many destinations.
- More information about the City of Reggio Emilia can be found on the web. The city's tourist information website in English can be found at <https://www.reggioemiliawelcome.it/en>
- Click [here](#) for transfer information to get from Bologna Airport to Reggio Emilia.
- Click [here](#) for transfer information to get from Milan Malpensa Airport to Reggio Emilia.

6. Study Program Costs

The early bird member price for the 2024 Study Group is \$3750AUD. This price valid until 1 October 2023 after which time the price will be \$3950AUD.

This cost includes visits to schools, local bus travel to schools and other venues, meetings, presentations, Reggio Children farewell reception, morning and afternoon teas, lunch, interpreters, insurance against damage to schools, and printed materials. Also included are pre-tour readings, meetings, as well as costs associated with providing two Australian Study Group Leaders, and general administration costs of the Study Group. Finally, delegates are required to pay a 20% tax to the Italian Government for professional learning undertaken in Italy. The tax was introduced in 2009 and is included in the fee.

N.B The fee is an all-inclusive cost to all participants and cannot be altered for not participating in some of the components, e.g. land transportation, etc.

N.B It does not include accommodation, airfares, insurance, transfers or other associated costs.

The **demand for places is high**, and places will be allocated on receipt of your registration form and deposit on a **first come, first served basis**. No exceptions are possible. Registrations will close on 27 November 2023, or as soon as all places are filled.

7. Contingency Payment

REAIE has calculated the fee to Reggio Children as close to the current exchange rate as possible to keep costs down for participants. If there is a fall in the exchange rate between now and when the fee to Reggio Children is paid, a small additional fee (no more than \$250AUD) may have to be charged. REAIE is not in a financial position to absorb the additional costs of the Study Group if there is a dramatic fall in the currency exchange.

8. Accommodation

A block booking of accommodation has been made at the Astoria Hotel situated in the centre of the city. To organise accommodation at the conference rate at the Astoria Hotel, bookings must be made through Damian Quirk at DQ International Travel Service. This is regardless of how your flight arrangements have been made. Please contact Damian as soon as your registration has been confirmed if you wish to stay with the Australian delegation. **When contacting Damian to obtain a quote please ensure you include the following information: actual travel plans, dates and destinations, a scanned copy of your passport, best contact details, including residential address and mobile number and any frequent flyer information. For accommodation enquiries please ensure you note single, twin share or double. Please do not contact the hotel directly.**

The costs quoted are per room and include bed and breakfast.

If two people are sharing a room the costs will be divided.

All rooms have their own bathrooms.

Single Room:

- 1 person only approx €121.50 per night
(Price will be confirmed on booking and is subject to currency fluctuation)

Double or twin room:

- 1 or 2 persons approx €152.50 per night
(Price will be confirmed on booking and is subject to currency fluctuation)

Please note:

It is not possible to triple-share a room except for a family with a child under seven years of age.

There are limited single rooms available. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis for those staying for the 10 nights. If you wish to have a single room after this period, you will need to book and pay for a double room. You will be notified of this on booking.

This booking is valid until 31 October – please contact Damian Quirk at DQ International Travel Service 03 9614 4588 or email travel@dqinternational.com.au.

9. Insurance

Reggio Children and REAIE require all participants have taken out:

- an individual insurance policy for accidents of any type in which they may occur during the Initiative. Reggio Children will provide for the participants an insurance for damages caused to people or things inside the municipal institutions;
- an individual insurance policy covering medical/hospital and/or hospitalisation expenses, as well as travel, board and accommodation for any additional day spent in Italy, in the event of any general health problems and/or any health emergencies that may arise in situ.

Travel insurance is available from DQ International Travel Service on application.

10. Cancellation Fees

REAIE has signed a contract with Reggio Children in Reggio Emilia for a specific number of REAIE Study Group delegates. REAIE is required to pay a non-refundable deposit to Reggio Children for the total number of delegates.

- Delegates who cancel their registration before 27 November 2023 will incur an administration fee of \$100AUD.
- Registration cancellations that occur between and inclusive of 28 November 2023 and 26 February 2024 will incur a loss of the full deposit paid.
- Final balance payment is due by 26 February 2024.

Participants wishing to pay in instalments need to contact REAIE when submitting their registration, payment in full will be required by 26 February 2024.

Cancellation after 26 February 2024 will incur a total loss of fee of the full fee where the place is unable to be filled by another delegate. If the place is filled the loss incurred will be the deposit paid.

Please click on this link for full terms and conditions:

<https://reggioaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2023-April-Study-Tour-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>

11. Bus transfer option from Bologna Airport to Astoria Hotel, Reggio Emilia

- REAIE will organise a bus from Bologna Airport to the Astoria Hotel, Reggio Emilia on **Wednesday 10 April 2024** and from the Astoria Hotel, Reggio Emilia to Bologna Airport on **Saturday 20 April 2024**. Australian delegates and accompanying persons are also invited to travel on these buses.
- There will be an additional charge for these transfers. Further information will be sent out once your registration has been received.

12. Day trips to Florence and Venice

- Cultural days in different parts of Italy prior to the commencement of the Study Week, assist the participants with meeting and forming bonds with the REAIE Study Group, and becoming more familiar with the diversity and history of Italy. REAIE will offer two, one day trips by bus. The Study Group Leaders accompany the participants on these trips.
- REAIE will organise a bus transfer to Venice on **Thursday 11 April 2024** and to Florence on **Saturday 13 April, 2024**. Australian delegates and accompanying persons are also invited to participate in these bus transfers.
- Participants will be free to explore the cities of Venice and Florence. Guided tours are not included. Please click on the links for further information about Venice, <http://en.turismovenetia.it/> and Florence <http://www.firenzeturismo.it/en/>
- We strongly recommend these trips as a way of settling into the group and for getting to know one another before the intensive study program begins. Delegates on past Study Groups have commented that they hadn't realised how much the quality of their study week would depend on feeling part the group – and how important the bus trips were for getting to know each other.
- Details and costs will be sent out once your registration has been received.



- Places on the buses are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

13. Optional Farewell Dinner

There will be an optional farewell dinner for the Australian delegation on **Friday 19 April 2024** at a venue to be confirmed, at an additional cost. Further details will be sent out with the day trip information once deposits have been received.

Registering for the Study Group

All registrations for the Study Group need to be completed online.

<https://reggioaustralia.org.au/events/study-group-april-2024-to-reggio-emilia/>

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis on receipt of your registration form **AND** deposit. Your deposit will be fully refunded if we are unable to offer you a place in the Study Program.

N.B. A final invoice will be sent out in January 2024 and the final payment is due by 26 February 2024.

REAIE is open on Monday to Thursday from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

All participants must be over 18 years of age.

A summary of important dates

Wednesday 27 November 2023	Registration and deposit payment due (registrations may close earlier if all places are allocated).
Wednesday 27 November 2023	Delegates who cancel their registration before this date will incur an administration fee of \$100AUD.
Thursday 28 November 2023 to Monday 26 February 2024	Registration cancellations that occur between and inclusive of these dates will incur a loss of the full deposit paid.
Monday 26 February 2024	Cancellation after this date will incur a total loss of fee of the full fee where the place is unable to be filled by another delegate. If the place is filled, the loss incurred will be the deposit paid.
Monday 26 February 2024	Final Study Group payment is due.
Tuesday 9 April 2024	Study Group Leaders will depart Australia.
Wednesday 10 April 2024	Study Group Leaders will arrive in Bologna.
Thursday 11 April 2024	Optional day trip to Venice.
Saturday 13 April 2024	Optional day trip to Florence.
Saturday 13 April 2024	Recommended for all participants to arrive in Reggio Emilia by this date.
Sunday 14 April 2024	Australian delegate meeting at the Astoria Hotel, Reggio Emilia at 1.30pm
Monday 15 April 2024	Lectures, presentations, and school visits commence at the Loris Malaguzzi International Centre.
Friday 19 April 2024	Study Group concludes.
Friday 19 April 2024	Optional dinner
Saturday 20 April 2024	Study Group Leaders depart Reggio Emilia.