



Professional development

This list was developed in response to queries from readers interested in finding out about professional development or training courses available for workers in the child protection/child welfare area. Information about these courses has been obtained from a variety of sources and was correct at the time of printing. To find out more about particular courses, please contact the respective providers. COMPILED BY KATIE KOVACS.

Victorian Parenting Centre

Ph: (03) 9639 4111;

Web: www.vicparenting.com.au

Managing non-compliance in children

Date: 29 May 2003

Cost: \$140

Location: Melbourne

This workshop will examine issues related to etiology, assessment and family-based intervention for non-compliant behaviour in children.

Working with parents who have learning disabilities

Date: 5 June 2003

Cost: \$140

Location: Melbourne

This workshop will provide an overview of the learning needs of parents with an intellectual disability and effective intervention strategies.

Enhancing parental coping:

A cognitive approach

Date: 12 June 2003

Cost: \$140

Location: Melbourne

Parents' beliefs and thought processes play an immensely important role in determining how they raise their children, and how they respond to stress associated with parenting. This workshop will provide an introduction to the cognitive model of parenting; thoughts and beliefs associated with maladaptive parenting responses; and strategies for modifying unhelpful beliefs, attitudes and thinking processes.

Creating family-friendly schools

Date: to be advised

Cost: \$140

Location: Melbourne

This workshop will enhance the effectiveness of schools in supporting parents.

ACER Workshops

Ph: (03) 9835 7403;

Email: workshops@acer.edu.au

Safe anger release

Date: 13 May 2003 or 13 October 2003

Cost: \$132 (each workshop)

Location: Melbourne

This highly experiential introductory day will model practical ways for dealing with anger.

Parenting today

Date: 22–23 May 2003 or 28–29 July 2003

Cost: \$285 (each workshop)

Location: Melbourne

Sandplay and symbol work

Date: 1 August 2003

Cost: \$132

Location: Melbourne

Expressive therapies with troubled youth

Date: 19 November 2003

Cost: \$132

Location: Melbourne

Centre for Community Welfare Training

Ph: (02) 9281 8822;

Email: ccwt@acwa.asn.au

Regional training

The CCWT is offering customised training courses for Wagga Wagga, Orange and Tamworth. Each workshop will last for two days and has been scheduled in a regional centre to give community workers the opportunity for relevant training. The dates for these courses are:

Wagga Wagga: 25–26 June 2003

Orange: 19–20 August 2003

Tamworth: 20–21 October 2003

To complete an expression of interest form or to give input about training topics you would like covered in these regional courses, visit our website at www.acwa.asn.au. For more information contact Michelle Grice, Training Calendar Coordinator, on (02) 9281 8822.

Child protection core training

Date: 6–8 August 2003

Cost: \$300

Location: Sydney

This three-day program, designed for workers with children, young people and families, will look at both child sexual abuse (CSA) and PANOC. The course will cover: definitions, context and dynamics surrounding CSA, physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse and domestic violence;

indicators of abuse and abuse co-factors; potential impacts of childhood abuse, including specific impacts on a child/young person's development; child protection system responses, including mandatory reporting to DoCS and the roles and responsibilities of government and community agencies; risk of harm assessment frameworks.

Child sexual assault – core training

Date: 12–14 November 2003

Cost: \$300

Location: Sydney

The issue of child sexual abuse (CSA) as a social problem and crime has been explored energetically in the research and practice contexts. CSA has also been the subject of many professional and community education activities. However, professional and community knowledge about the dynamics, nature, extent of and response to child sexual abuse is not universal. This three-day workshop will explore the core issues surrounding the sexual abuse of children. It will assist workers to fulfil the core responsibilities of recognising and reporting suspected cases of CSA and to develop strategies to respond to children and non-offending parents when sexual abuse is disclosed.

Domestic violence & child protection:

Issues and dilemmas

Date: 24–25 November 2003

Cost: \$200

Location: Sydney

This workshop provides an holistic approach to responding to issues of domestic violence and child protection. In particular, case management practices will be promoted that challenge offender actions and provide for the safety and well-being of women and children. The dynamics of domestic violence will be explored and restraints theory examined in order to understand offender thinking and how this is manifested. Participants will be asked to develop case management plans that name the strategies they incorporate in their work to assist women and children to overcome the effects of abuse. Case plans will also identify how they will support and promote the safety of women and their children. The inter-agency context of child protection will be reinforced with the examination of a risk

assessment model that underpins case management practices and decision-making.

'Keeping Children Safe': Train the Trainer

Dates: 19–20 May 2003 (Parramatta);

20–21 October 2003 (Liverpool)

Cost: \$230 (each workshop)

This two-day training course teaches participants to run the 'Keeping Children Safe' group program effectively. Some group work skills are covered and there is an opportunity to present modules of the program to the group during the training and gain feedback. 'Keeping Children Safe' is a six-session course that discusses child protection in the context of the *Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. It can be used with groups or in individual counselling and guides parents in the best ways to ensure their own children remain safe. Suitable for caregivers of all ages, it examines the five types of abuse: physical, neglect, emotional, domestic violence and sexual abuse. Each session includes a positive parenting section with strategies that parents can use to develop their own behaviour management skills. Protective behaviours based on child protection material taught in public schools are also discussed.

PANOC core training

Date: 3–5 September 2003

Cost: \$300

Location: Sydney

Physical abuse and neglect affects children of all ages across all cultures. This three-day workshop will look at the indicators of physical abuse and neglect of children and young people. Participants will be given the opportunity to develop tools for working with parents and children as well as an understanding of the notification process and some basic knowledge of risk assessment. The course will also address issues of prevention and intervention through direct client work, inter-agency collaboration and consultation.

The child protection merry-go-round: Managing responsibilities and anxieties

Dates: 11 June 2003 (Newcastle); 2 September 2003 (Sydney)

Cost: \$100 (each workshop)

People working with children know that their legal child protection responsibilities have changed significantly since the introduction in 2000 of the *Children and Young Person's (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. However, working with children and young people at risk of harm can be anxiety provoking; workers can often feel lost and unsure what to do within a system which can be less than perfect. This course explains worker's legal child protection responsibilities and explores ways

to support children and young people at risk of harm. The importance of managing worker anxiety and its impact on practice will also be discussed. Those who have attended 'What's New in Child Protection' will find some parts of this course are revisited.

Physical discipline: The 'do's & don'ts'

Date: 20 August 2003

Cost: \$100

Location: Sydney

Smacking is a commonly accepted form of discipline in Australia, although its effectiveness is increasingly being challenged. In New South Wales in 2002, the *Crimes Amendment (Child Protection – Excessive Punishment) Act 2000* was passed. This act limits how parents can physically punish their children and is the first of its kind in Australia. People working with families may face dilemmas about physical punishment such as: 'Can I tell the parents I work that it's okay to use physical punishment with their children?'; 'How much and what type of physical punishment is legal?'; 'What is the difference between physical punishment and physical abuse?'; and 'How do I support parents to effectively discipline their children?'. These questions and more will be explored in this workshop.

Brief solution-focused approaches to school problems

Date: 4 June 2003

Cost: \$100

Location: Penrith

This workshop will focus on a range of ideas that have been demonstrated as effective in creating a school ethos in which problems can more effectively be addressed. Examples will be given from a specific school that was changed from one with low academic achievements and high levels of vandalism and other disciplinary problems, into its almost exact opposite (as subsequently attested to by a Government Inspector's detailed report). This was achieved using brief therapy principles and cutting back on traditional disciplinary measures. The interactional view, brief and solution-focused principles and a range of procedures that logically follow from them will be discussed and demonstrated.

Making your service accessible to a culturally diverse community

Date: 16–17 June 2003

Cost: \$200

Location: Parramatta

How do you make your programs culturally appropriate? How do you encourage people from diverse language and cultural backgrounds to use your service? What skills do you need to work effectively with diversity? This practical and

interactive two-day workshop explores the 'magic' triangle of cultural competence, outreaching to the community and developing an accessible service. Participants will be able to analyse their own service and begin to develop a plan to make it more accessible.

Safe home visiting

Dates: 3 April 2003 (Liverpool); 31 July 2003

(Parramatta); 19 September 2003 (Sydney)

Cost: \$100 (each workshop)

The goal of this one-day workshop is for participants to have a clear understanding of the procedures and strategies essential to ensure their physical and emotional safety when home visiting clients and their families. These include assessment of risk situations, and strategies that can assist workers with a successful outcome where concerns are raised. Appropriate actions following an incident of concern will be identified, and the worker's and manager's responsibility in such matters discussed. The workshop aims at participant involvement, whilst providing fresh ideas and assistance to workers.

*Domestic Violence and
Incest Resource Centre*
Ph: (03) 9486 9866

Family law and domestic violence

Date: 15 May 2003

Cost: \$30

Location: Southern Melbourne

This training aims to consolidate and extend workers' knowledge of the Family Law Act. It will overview the Family Law Act, paying particular attention to the legal consideration given to domestic violence, as well as providing details of the various stages people go through as they progress through the Family Court.

Domestic violence and child protection

Date: 12 June 2003

Cost: \$25 SAAP; \$50 non SAAP

Location: Melbourne CBD

This training explores the links between domestic violence and child abuse; describes the way in which the Child Protection System works; and examines ways in which the Domestic Violence and Child Protection fields can work more collaboratively.

Introduction to domestic violence

Dates: 9, 16, 23 & 30 May 2003

Cost: \$100 SAAP; \$200 non SAAP

Location: to be advised?

This training, held over four consecutive Fridays, is for workers who are new (less than 12 months) to the domestic violence field, and workers in the health and community sector whose work brings them into contact with women and children experiencing domestic violence. Success-

ful completion of the training and assessment will result in a nationally recognised Statement of Attainment and TAFE credits for those people undertaking qualifications within the Health and Community Services Training Package.

**Australians Against
Child Abuse**
Ph: (03) 9872 2012;
Email: ddehoogd@aaca.com.au

Using studies to heal: Narrative therapy with children, young people and families who experience abuse

Date: 15–16 March 2003 or 20–21 November 2003
Cost: \$230 (each workshop)
Location: Melbourne

Stories are powerful meaning-making strategies for children, young people and their families. This two-day workshop offers the opportunity for participants to examine the emergence of identity through stories; how personal life stories are influenced by abuse and family violence; how stories can be used to heal; and techniques for encouraging storytelling in therapy with children, young people and their families. The workshop will focus on ways to appreciate the principles of respect, transition and commitment in assisting in recovery from abuse-related trauma. Through discussion of participants' own cases, and a series of exercises involving a team and role plays, participants will have the opportunity to practice this approach.

Recovery from trauma: Engaging with children and young people in the process of recovery from sexual abuse

Date: 20 May 2003
Cost: \$120
Location: Melbourne

The trauma associated with experiences of sexual abuse can have profound and lasting consequences. This workshop will draw on psychotherapeutic and post-modern ideas to understand the impact of trauma on a child or young person's thoughts, feelings and behaviour, and provide strategies for facilitating a process of recovery.

Healing the hurt: Promoting change in children who have experienced abuse-related trauma

Dates: 19 June 2003 (Melbourne); 19 September 2003 (Bendigo)
Cost: \$120 (each workshop)

This workshop will explore the consequences of abuse and family violence on the development of a child's sense of self, relationships, confidence and abilities. Participants will have the opportunity to develop enhanced skills in working with children who have experienced abuse and trauma, and explore strategies to promote the child's

recovery. This workshop will enhance participants' skills and knowledge in understanding, communicating with and responding to children who have experienced abuse or family violence.

Generating mandates for change – Working with resistant or involuntary families

Date: 23 June 2003
Cost: \$120
Location: Melbourne

This workshop deconstructs current conceptualisations of 'resistance'. It offers alternative ways for understanding 'resistant-like' characteristics demonstrated by families. It will provide participants with opportunities to identify key strategies to work in collaboration with 'resistance' through generating mandates for dialogue and change. It will enhance the skills of participants in ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of their practice with families who are described as 'difficult' or 'non-engaging'.

Keeping children in view: Therapy with children and parents in high conflict parental separation

Date: 23 July 2003
Cost: \$120
Location: Melbourne

High conflict parental separations significantly and adversely impact on those family members directly involved in the dispute. In many instances there is a close correlation between these cases and those involving family violence. Family members caught in the midst of these disputes are often difficult to engage in any therapeutic or change process. This workshop will explore the dynamics that create difficulties for children and their parents in such situations. It will also provide opportunities for participants to explore and develop ways of working with children and parents that seek to enhance better outcomes for children.

SAFE GENERATIONS

A new resource, *Safe Generations*, has been produced by The Protective Behaviours Consultancy Group of NSW. This new resource is based on the Protective Behaviours program and aims to empower children and young people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to take a stand against violence. The *Safe Generations* training package has ten parts that build on each other and covers ideas about patterns of violence as well as specific forms of violence including physical abuse, sexual abuse and family violence. It also explores the impact of historical and current violence perpetrated on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It is important that presenters of *Safe Generations* are members of the local community as it is only through an understanding of local needs and issues that workable solutions can be developed and enhanced. Locally-developed solutions and strategies are not only more relevant but interrupt the cycle of disempowerment too often imposed on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through 'top down' and 'outside' answers. It is intended that this resource continues to be changed, adapted and developed in ways that empower communities to take a stand against all forms of violence and disempowerment.

The development of this resource has involved a long consultation process with many people across NSW and throughout Australia. For further information or to obtain a copy of SAFE GENERATIONS please contact: *The Protective Behaviours Consultancy Group of NSW Inc.* on Ph: (02) 9699 3377 or via Email: pbcgnsw@zip.com.au



Balancing rights and needs: Promoting ethical practice with children

Date: 25 July 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

Working with children professionally raises many ethical issues in regard to balancing and responding to children's rights, needs and welfare. Finding a way to address these ethical concerns and work in ethically sensitive ways is a daily challenge to professionals. This workshop will provide a forum for professionals experienced in working with children to explore, debate and discuss the ethical issues in such work.

Understanding and responding to children experiencing child abuse and neglect

Date: 7 August 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

The aim of this seminar is to provide an overview of the complex issues of child abuse and neglect. Participants will gain knowledge and skills in more effectively identifying child abuse and neglect, in addition to gaining an appreciation of the impact of abuse on children and young people, while reflecting on the implications of these issues for themselves and their agencies.

Resistance and renewal: Advanced narrative therapy with children and families in which abuse has occurred

Date: 15 August 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

This workshop aims to enhance the practice of individuals who use narrative therapy with children who have experienced abuse and their families. It will focus on an in-depth exploration of the influence of postmodernist ideas in therapeutic exchanges. It provides opportunities for workshop participants to receive specific feedback about areas of their narrative approach they wish to develop further. It will examine the meaning-making capacities of children, young people and family members who experience violence, violation and disempowerment.

Developing helping conversations with children who have experienced abuse or neglect and their parents

Date: 18–19 September 2003

Cost: \$230

Location: Melbourne

This two-day workshop will explore the consequences of abuse and family violence on the children's development. Participants will have the opportunity to develop enhanced skills in working with children who have experienced abuse and trauma, and to explore strategies to engage parents

in the child's recovery. The workshop will enhance participants' skills and knowledge on understanding, communicating with and responding to children who have experienced abuse or family violence. Participants will have the opportunity to examine the impact of abuse on the parent/s and parent-child relationship and explore ways to promote the parents' ability to better understand their child's experience and develop positive ways to support and communicate with their child.

Working therapeutically with parents whose children have experienced abuse

Date: 21 October 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

This workshop will assist participants to explore their work with parents of children who have experienced abuse, and the philosophies and assumptions that underpin this work. Using a child-centred approach, this workshop will explore the importance of understanding the needs of the parents. There will be a focus on the emotional needs of parents, and on the vulnerabilities of parents with their own history of abuse. Different psychotherapeutic theories of engaging and working with parents will be drawn upon throughout this workshop.

Developing connections: Engaging young people who have experienced abuse and violence in a process of change

Date: 23 October 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

This workshop will explore the consequences of abuse on the development of a young person's sense of self and relationships. The consequences for young people of abuse that commenced in childhood versus that which commenced in adolescence will be considered. Participants will explore the impact of these experiences on young people's ability to engage with helping professionals in a process of change. This workshop will explore the notion of 'difficult to engage' or 'resistant' young people, and encourage participants to consider alternative ways of understanding this frame of reference.

Family terrorism: Understanding and responding to the needs of children and young people who have experienced physical abuse form their carers

Date: 5 December 2003

Cost: \$120

Location: Melbourne

This workshop provides a conceptual framework for understanding the impact of physical abuse on the social, psychological and emotional functioning of children and young people. It explores possible interpretive frames of violence available to children and young people. It

encourages participants to link the attitudes held by parents/carers about physical punishment with opportunities to promote respectful and restorative processes for their children.

Social Options Australia

Ph: (08) 8326 8033;

Email: info@soa.com.au

Introduction to mental health

Date: 12 May 2003 or 27 October 2003

Cost: \$77 (each workshop)

Location: South Australia

This intensive introductory workshop is aimed at those dealing with people who may have mental health issues. It is suitable for a range of workers including those who have contact with the public on a daily basis, or who would like to improve their understanding and skills to enhance their service to clients. The workshop will provide an overview of mental health issues, systems and referral networks, and practical tips and input from a consumer team with first-hand information and experience.

Complaints handling in the human services

Date: 4 August 2003 or 17 November 2003

Cost: \$77 (each workshop)

Location: South Australia

This popular course examines the importance of training in complaints handling for the human services; key questions about complaints in your organisation; how to make your organisation complaints friendly; developing a complaints policy; and integrating complaints into your daily practice. It also teaches practical complaints handling skills.

Dealing with difficult situations and people

Date: 2 June 2003 or 24 November 2003

Cost: \$77 (each workshop)

Location: South Australia

An intensive workshop is aimed at those who find themselves dealing with difficult customers and difficult situations. A hands-on approach with practical tips, exercises and discussion can be put to work as soon as the workshop is over. Participants are encouraged to bring a difficult situation to the workshop for analysis and action.

Parentzone

Ph: (03) 9702 9930

Parent Education Group Facilitators training

Dates: 29 April–24 June 2003 (Term 1);

21 July–15 September 2003 (Term 2)

Location: Term 1 Dandenong (Melbourne);

Term 2 Frankston (Melbourne)

Parentzone is offering two opportunities for people to participate in a nine-week program to train as Parent Education Group Facilitators. The program will teach group processes and facilitation, and strengths-based, solution-focused parenting.