

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for workers in the child protection/child welfare area

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, however, the list is by no means comprehensive. To find out more about particular courses, please contact the respective providers. COMPILED BY NICK RICHARDSON.

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH CENTRE (QEC)

Phone: (03) 9549 2777
Website: www.qec.org.au

Preparing yourself to give evidence in court

Date: 17 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

Society is becoming increasingly litigious, and being prepared for a court appearance is a necessity. This workshop was conducted in 2003, and is repeated due to popular request. The workshop will prepare you to know what to expect from a court appearance, and provide practical strategies if subpoenaed as an expert witness. Your apprehension will be reduced, allowing you to give evidence confidently and professionally.

Koori parenting

Date: 11 November 2004, 1.30pm - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

Wanjana Lidj means "to hold a child" or "to hold children". This presentation will be in Koori Talk format rather than a lecture, and will cover practical strategies on how to develop working relationships with Koori families.

Child development in the 0-5s

Date: 9 December 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$137 (Light lunch provided)
Location: Noble Park, Melbourne

A workshop designed for child protection workers, foster carers, family support workers, and early childhood workers. Normal development will be discussed together with indicators of delay and when to refer.

AUSTRALIAN CHILDHOOD FOUNDATION

Phone: (03) 9874 3922
Website: www.aaca.com.au/events/workshops.asp

Working with abuse related trauma in children

Date: 14 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Hobart);
16 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Devonport)
Cost: \$120
Location: Hobart, Devonport (Tasmania)

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

Disrupted connections: Working with children who have experienced trauma and attachment difficulties

Date: 15 July, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

Most child abuse occurs in the context of a relationship or intimacy. It is not uncommon for children who have experienced abuse to experience fear, mistrust or ambivalence about interpersonal closeness. This workshop will explore attachment theory and the implications for a child's development, particularly in the context of a traumatic environment. This work is drawn from the writings of Bowlby, Stern and Ainsworth and rests on the assumption that early relationships are a formative influence on character.

Pieces of the puzzle: Caring for children with challenging behaviours in foster or residential care

Date: 19 July, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

Children and young people who enter child protection systems requiring foster care have invariably experienced significant abuse-related trauma. This trauma results in these children presenting with a range of complex needs and challenging behaviours. Their behaviours often result in them being deemed "difficult to place in foster care". Placements can be difficult to maintain. They can experience many placement breakdowns and changes or spend extended time in residential care. This workshop is aimed at providing foster carers and residential care staff with a framework

for understanding the impact of abuse-related trauma on children's development, capacity to form relationships and behaviours. Participants will explore appropriate responses to children's complex needs and challenging behaviours.

Child abuse trauma and brain development: Developing an orientation for effective practice in the protection, placements and support of abused children

Date: 30 July 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

This workshop will explore the most recent research on the impact of abuse-related trauma on brain development, provide a framework for understanding the consequences of abuse for a child's cognitive, social and emotional functioning and explore implications for practice.

Ending the silence: Engaging with children and young people in the process of recovery from sexual abuse

Date: 9 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), Melbourne

The trauma associated with experiences of sexual abuse can have profound and lasting consequences. This workshop will draw on psychotherapeutic and postmodern 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.

In the best interests of the child: Assessing children and families in the context of family law disputes

Date: 1 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Cost: \$120
Location: Hobart, Tasmania

Professionals who work with children and/or parents of separated families are often called upon to provide assessments that may be used within the context of a family law dispute. This workshop will explore common dynamics of such families as well as aspects of family law that impact on professional assessments. It will consider relevant assessment frameworks and explore skills and strategies required to undertake such assessments and provide evidence within the Family Court.

Treating intangible trauma: Promoting growth and recovery for children who have experienced emotional and psychological abuse

Date: 8 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Melbourne); 12 November 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm (Hobart).
Cost: \$120
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Melbourne); Hobart.

This workshop aims to increase participants' knowledge about the ways in which the harm experienced by children who have suffered emotional and psychological abuse can be treated. It is based on insights drawn from the GREAT (Growth and Recovery from Emotional Abuse and Traumatized) Kids Program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation with the support of the Telstra Foundation.

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

Date: 21-22 October 2004, 9.30am - 4.00pm
Cost: \$230
Location: Maroondah Federation Estate (Ringwood), 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 how personal life stories are influenced by abuse and family violence, the emergence of identity through stories, how stories can be used to heal and techniques for encouraging story-telling in therapy with children, young people and their families.



CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY WELFARE TRAINING

Phone: (02)9281 8820
Website: www@acwa.asn.au

PANOC core training

Dates: 4, 5, 6 August 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$330/\$300 CCWT Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

Physical abuse and neglect affects children of all ages across 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, interagency collaboration and consultation.

Child protection for children with disabilities

Dates: 9 August 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm
Cost: \$110/\$100 CCWT Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

Abuse and neglect is a universal issue that has the potential to affect all children and young people. However research suggests that children with disabilities are at even greater risk of being maltreated than children without disabilities. Why is this the case, and what can be done to prevent maltreatment of children with disabilities? This course examines the particular risk of abuse for vulnerable children and young people with disabilities. The relevant parts of the Children and Young People (Care and Protection) Act 1998, and information about the child protection system are covered as well as how to recognise signs and indicators of abuse. Practical ways of keeping children and carers safe will be addressed.

Child protection merry-go-round: Managing responsibilities and anxieties

Dates: 30, 31 August 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm (Sydney); 14, 15 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm (Ballina)
Cost: \$370
Location: Sydney; Ballina (NSW)

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 (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.

Choose with care

Dates: 7 September 2004, 9.30 am-4.30 pm (Coffs Harbour); 9 September 2004, 9.30am - 4.30pm (Tamworth)
Cost: \$110/\$100 CCWA Members
Location: Coffs Harbour; Tamworth (NSW)

This one-day Choose With Care training program will assist participants to develop strategies which minimise the risk of child abuse occurring within their organisation. The training will be conducted as an interactive workshop building on local knowledge and needs. Participants will be encouraged to share experiences to maximise learning outcomes and ensure the Choose With Care strategies can be applied in a variety of settings. There will be small and large

group discussions, powerpoint presentations and practical examples using the trainers' experiences.

Child protection core training

Dates: 8, 9, 10 December 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$330/\$300 CCWA Members
Location: Sydney (NSW)

This three-day program, designed for workers with children, young people and families, will look at both CSA and PANOC. The course will cover: definitions and the 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; and child protection system responses including mandatory reporting to DoCS and the roles and responsibilities of government and community agencies.

SOCIAL OPTIONS AUSTRALIA

Phone: (08) 8177 2061
Website: www.soa.com.au/

Managing aggressive clients

Dates: 30 August, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$160 includes lunch
Location: Fullarton SA

An intensive workshop aimed at those who find themselves dealing with difficult customers and difficult situations. A hands on approach with practical tips, exercises and discussion which can be put to work as soon as the workshop is over. Bring your difficult situation to the workshop for analysis and action, which will bring out the best in you, your organisation and your customers.

Designing and evaluating programs

Dates: 21 June 2004 *or* 1 November 2004, 9.30 am - 4.30 pm
Cost: \$160 includes lunch
Location: Fullarton SA

Designing Human Service Program requires a set of skills, which are easily achieved once the concepts and basic steps are put into operation. Program evaluation can very easily be incorporated into the process from the beginning. Participants will be led through this using techniques including Program Logic, a simple yet rigorous tool which can be used either as a planning tool for a program or as tool for planning an evaluation. Participants work through relevant examples and will then work with their own material to begin designing their own program design and evaluation

Nick Richardson is a Project Officer with the National Child Protection Clearinghouse at the Australian Institute of Family Studies.