

Practice forum

Working together to respond to children and young people affected by family violence

• free • register at www.eventoffice.com.au/dhs •

Date - Tuesday 31 July

Venue - Melbourne Town Hall, Swanston Street

RSVP - Monday 9 July

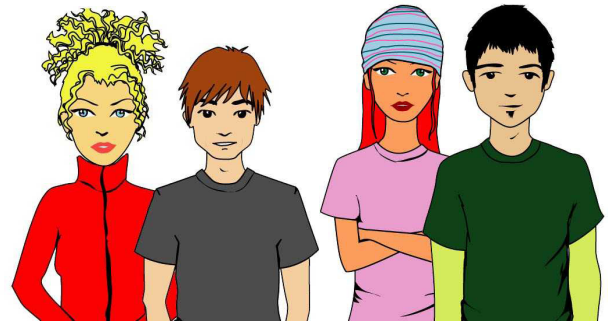
All welcome including:

- family violence workers
- professionals working with children and families
- family services
- social work/psychology students
- policy and government workers
- child protection workers
- police, courts and lawyers
- housing workers

MC: Ms Maria Dimopoulos, Myriad Consultants

Program for the day

- 8.30 Registration - Tea and coffee on arrival
- 8.55 Children's choir
- 9.10 Welcome to Country
- 9.20 Welcome
- 9.30 **Cathy Humphreys**, Professor of Child and Family Welfare
Responding to children affected by family violence - opportunities for collaboration
- 10.00 **Robyn Miller**, Principal Practitioner, Child Protection and Family Services Branch, Office for Children
Collaborative practice to enhance safety and healing for women and children.
- 10.30 Questions and discussion
- 11.00 Morning tea
- 11.30 **Joanna Bock**, Regional Director, Northern Region Berry Street Victoria
Julie Boffa, Project Manager, Children's Protection Society on behalf of the North East metro Child and Family Services Alliance (incorporating Child FIRST)
Responding effectively to children: What Family Services and Family Violence bring to each other.
- 12.00 **Mark Glasson**, Executive Director Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Communities WA
Domestic violence intervention...assessing safety and accountability. Whose responsibility is it?
- 12.20 Questions and discussion
- 12.40 **Gill Callister**, Executive Director, Office for Children - *Key messages.*
- 12.50 Lunch
- Concurrent workshops
- 2.00 - 4.00
1. Family violence - legal responses to children
 2. Assisting men to have non-violent relationships with their children
 3. Creative engagement with mothers and children affected by the trauma of family violence
 4. Working with Indigenous children affected by family violence - a child's view
 5. What Family Services and Family Violence Services bring to each other
 6. Child Protection and Family Violence - directions for good practice
- 4.00 Close
- 4.15 Afternoon tea



Concurrent workshops

Workshop 1 Family violence – Legal responses to children (Capacity 50)

This workshop will explore the risk assessment and safety planning processes for children affected by family violence, via a scenario that steps through responses by police, courts and lawyers.

facilitator • Maria Dimopoulos - Myriad Consultants

panel members • Noreen Toohey, Magistrate, Family Violence Court Division
• TBA, Victoria Police, Family Violence Unit
• Sarah Vessali, Principal Lawyer, Women's Legal Service Victoria
• Family Violence Outreach worker.

Workshop 2 Assisting men to have non-violent relationships with their children (Capacity 50)

This workshop will discuss how the impact of violence on children is addressed with men who use family violence and with women and children who experience family violence.

facilitators • Danny Blay, CEO, No To Violence
• Susan Geraghty, Trainer and Facilitator, Men's Behaviour Change Programs, Family Life

presenters • Sue Clout – Men's Behaviour Change Facilitator and Family Therapist
• Chris Grace - Team Leader Men's Health Whitehorse Community Health Centre.

Workshop 3 Creative engagement with mothers and children affected by the trauma of family violence (Capacity 40)

Abuse-related trauma has a significant impact on the developing brain. It results in children experiencing significant difficulties regulating their emotions, adapting their behaviour and being attuned to social exchanges.

This workshop will focus on a range of therapeutic and creative engagement strategies to work with and support children experiencing family violence. It will include attention to infants, supporting the child mother relationship and information for young people.

It also aims to enhance participants' capacity to communicate effectively with children and young people about their experiences of violence. It explores the meaning they draw from these experiences about their identity and their relationships. It also examines strategies and practical skills for supporting children including the use of play and other activities.

facilitator • Virginia Geddes, Coordinator DVIRC

presenters • Angela Weller - Australian Childhood Foundation – Creative Therapeutic engagement with children
• Donna Zander - DVIRC – Creative engagement and Bursting the Bubble
• Wendy Bunston – Royal Children's Hospital Peek a Boo Club supporting infants and their mothers.

Workshop 4 Working with Indigenous children affected by family violence – a child's view (Capacity 40)

This workshop will present the outcomes of a unique collaboration between Chris Burke and the Yarramundi Kids, with Joanne Holmes and the Bidja Clan. Together they will discuss and demonstrate how puppets and stories are an effective therapeutic way to support and work with indigenous children affected by family violence.

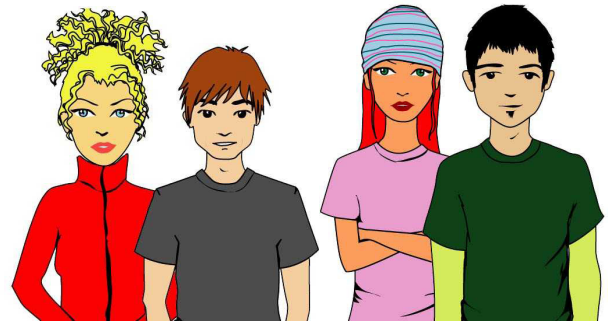
facilitator • Ms Rose Solomon, CEO Elizabeth Hoffman House

presenters • Chris Burke Director, Gracie Productions – 'Yarramundi Kids' puppets
• Joanne Holmes Regional Indigenous Family Violence Support Worker.

Workshop 5 What Family Services and Family Violence Services bring to each other (Capacity 50)

This workshop will follow the morning presentation and further explore what Child FIRST/Family Services and Family Violence Services bring to each other in working towards safer outcomes for children and their families. The workshop will include experienced practitioners from the North East metro based Family Services and Family Violence agencies who will lead this case scenario based workshop.

presenters • Joanna Bock, Regional Director, Northern Region, Berry St Victoria
• Julie Boffa, Project Manager, Children's Protection Society on behalf of the North East metro Child and Family Services Alliance, incorporating Child FIRST.



Workshop 6 **Child Protection and Family Violence: Directions for good practice** (Capacity 50)

This workshop will examine recent legislative and practice changes in child protection and explore good practice directions to enhance the safety of children affected by family violence.

presenters

- Robyn Miller, Practitioner, Office for Children
- Cathy Humphreys, Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare, University of Melbourne
- Mark Glasson, Executive Director Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Communities WA
- Shane Wilson, Child Protection Domain Manager, Intake, Investigation Community Partnerships, North and West Region
- Noel Macnamara, Manager, Child and Family Services, Hume Region.

Keynote speakers' biographies

Professor Cathy Humphreys (BSW; PhD) is the Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare, University of Melbourne. Professor Humphreys' strength is in practice, research and publication in the family violence and child abuse area. Recent publications have included: Humphreys, C. and Stanley, N. (eds) (2006) *Child Protection and Domestic Violence: Directions for Good Practice*, London, Jessica Kingsley Publications. Many research projects involved the development of resources to support practice, including 2 activity books for children of different ages, briefing papers and a theatre production (*Trauma* developed in collaboration with Geese Theatre Company).

Robyn Miller (B Soc S (SW) M F. Therapy) is the Principal Practitioner for the Child Protection and Family Services Branch at the Department of Human Services. As a social worker and family therapist she has 25 years experience in the field working in the Community Sector, Local Government and in Child Protection. She has been a senior clinician and teacher for the past 14 years and at the Bouverie Centre and also operated her private practice providing therapeutic service for individuals, couples, families, and supervision and training to various organisations across sectors on a part-time basis. Her practice and research interest has been in the area of trauma and family work, and her particular expertise is in the area of sexual abuse and family violence.

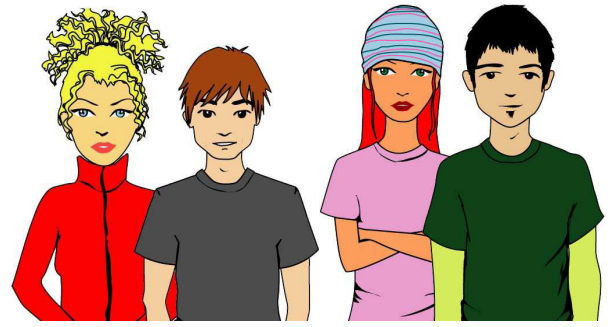
Mark Glasson is the Executive Director of the Western Australian Government's Family and Domestic Violence Unit. As a social worker, he has experience in community development, the funding of community based services and the provision of services to children and young people. He commenced his working life establishing childcare centres in Western Sydney and has worked for the Government of Western Australia since 1993. He has also worked in the non-government sector and in local government.

Joanna Bock is the Regional Director, Northern Region, Berry Street Victoria. This includes responsibility for the delivery of both Family Services and Family Violence programs. In 32 years of experience in the health and welfare field, Joanna has held a number of positions including: Unit Manager, Child Protection, DHS; Manager Child and Family Services Branch, City of Melbourne; Manager Social Work, Melbourne Clinic; Manager Central After Hours Services DHS; Manager Child Protection Eastern Metropolitan Region DHS and Manager Family Services Children's Protection Society.

Julie Boffa is the current Project Manager, Children's Protection Society on behalf of the North East Child and Family Services Alliance, incorporating Child FIRST. She is also Project Manager, Family Services and Strategic Planning Unit, Office for Children, DHS. In her 20 years experience in the child and welfare field, she has held a number of diverse roles within the Child Protection, Out-of-home-care and Family Services programs at DHS.

Ms Gill Callister is Executive Director, Office for Children, Department of Human Services. Qualified as a social worker, Ms Callister has worked in non-government services undertaking roles such as counselling and group work; management roles in foster care/residential care and early parenting support services. Since 1991, Ms Callister has held a range of senior Department of Human Services (DHS) regional portfolios.

From April 2004, Ms Callister was appointed to Executive Director, Community Care, and on the establishment of the Office for Children in March 2005, became the Executive Director of this new division. The role is responsible for early childhood care, education, health and development services; programs to assure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people, family support services; and for ensuring that children's policies, programs and services across government are delivered in a consistent way. The Office for Children funds or delivers more than 60 programs involving total spending of over one billion dollars.



Facilitators and workshop presenters in alphabetical order

Danny Blay is the Manager of No To Violence Male Family Violence Prevention Association and the Men's Referral Service, and has vast experience in male behaviour change and counselling. His current position includes representation on state government family violence policy initiatives, including the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence and the Victorian Department of Justice's Family Violence Reference Group, amongst others.

Wendy Bunston is the Manager of The Royal Children's Hospital Mental Health Service's (RCH MHS) award winning Community Group Program (CGP) and the Addressing Family Violence Programs (AFVP). As a senior social worker she holds a Masters Degree in Family Therapy and has undertaken further postgraduate studies in Organisational Development. She has specialised in working with children, adolescents and families considered at 'high risk', and within the areas of sexual violence and family violence. She has published work in the area of child protection, childhood trauma, child/adolescent sex offending and group work. Most recently she has co-authored *The Therapeutic Use of Games in Group Work* as well as co-edited a book on the *RCH MHS Addressing Family Violence Programs*. Wendy has co-developed specialist group work programs for children and their parents affected by family violence called *PARKAS*, as well as *The Peek a Boo Club*, for infants and mothers.

Chris Burke is the Director, Gracie Productions and Creative Director of the Yarramundi Kids puppets. She has worked with children and families for over 30 years in a number of different roles. These include teacher, women's refuge worker, child sexual assault counsellor, community educator, puppeteer, as well as program designer and manager. Chris was Founding Director of Jannawi Family Centre (1990–2004), and Creative Director of the national award winning *Jannawi Kids* puppets* (1994–2005). She and the Yarramundi Kids present workshops which include *Overcoming the effects of domestic violence on children* and *Child protection intervention in the context of domestic violence*. She is also the author of two unique domestic violence resource kits *Change Could Come* and *Creating the Future*.

Sue Clout has been co-facilitating Men's Behaviour Change Programs for the past seven years and during that time has also run women's groups and been responsible for partner contact. Sue is currently employed by Department of Justice, Crime & Violence Prevention as a Senior Program Advisor in Ballarat. Sue has worked extensively with children and young people affected by family violence in her work as a family therapist. Until recently Sue coordinated the Family Services and Family First program areas. Sue is currently studying her Masters of Counselling (Hons) and in her research is exploring 'women's experiences of working with abusive men'. She also holds a Bachelor of Counselling, A Graduate Certificate in Social Science, Advanced Certificate in Family Therapy. Sue also holds a clinical registration with the Victorian Association of Family Therapists for past 8 years.

Maria Dimopoulos has a legal background which she incorporates as an anti-discrimination trainer and facilitator. In her experience, she has consulted in a diverse range of organisations and projects. Maria has had extensive experience in policy formulation for the Government sector, research for social planning and in community education. Her consultancy work has largely been directed to the design and conduct of rigorous research to collate both qualitative and quantitative information on matters highly relevant to family and domestic violence and various law reform issues. Maria is currently enrolled at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in a PhD program examining the emergence of the so-called 'Cultural Defence' to Domestic Homicides and its implication for judicial education.

Virginia Geddes is the Coordinator of DVIRC, has more than 20 years experience in the domestic violence field including a number of domestic violence services including refuge, telephone counselling and support groups. She has developed and delivered a wide range of innovative training to service providers in her role at DVIRC.

Susan Geraghty has been involved with the organisation No To Violence for over 15 years in which she is now a Life Member. During her time with Victorian Office of Women's Policy, Susan brought to fruition 'Taking Responsibility' in 2002, which established policy in responding to men who use family violence. One of the highlights of Susan's career was establishing the Men's Referral Service for the Red Cross in 1993. Susan is currently working as a facilitator and trainer for Men's Behaviour Change Programs at Family Life.

Chris Grace is a team leader of Men's Health at Whitehorse Community Health Service. He has been involved in family violence networks for over 15 years. During this period he has developed a Behaviour Change program at the Health Service, contributed both as a trainer with No To Violence and a supervisor with the Men's Referral Service.



Joanne Holmes is a Regional Indigenous Family Violence Support Worker. Joanne, a Palawa woman, is a qualified Social Worker as well as having an education background. She has worked with Chris Burke and the Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group in Southern Loddon Mallee in developing the Bidja Clan puppets, which the group use when working with local children and young people.

Community members are from the Aboriginal communities in the Southern Loddon Mallee region, and are committed to raising awareness of the effects of family violence on children, and determined to help bring about change for younger generations. The project evolved as a response to the need to develop a mechanism to consult effectively and safely with Aboriginal children about their life experiences; and to be the voice of children who have been affected by family violence, neglect or sexual assault. Workshops are run in the Bidja Clan Aboriginal communities, and use puppets and stories that are created by volunteers from a broad age group.

Noel Macnamara has been a social worker for over 25 years. He is currently the Child and Family Services Manager in the Hume Region of the Department of Human Service (DHS). He is originally from the UK where he worked for Social Services, Barnardo's and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Since arriving in Australia he has worked for DHS, the Family Court and he was in private practice for 9 years. Noel has maintained an interest and a focus on the issue of domestic violence through out his career. Noel has regularly presented training and secondary consultations for government and Community Sector Organisations, nationally and internationally. In 2002 he was invited as the international visiting speaker for the Hong Kong Welfare Department to present on issues of child protection and domestic violence.

Rose Solomon is the Chief Executive Officer of Elizabeth Hoffman House, the community-controlled Indigenous women and children's refuge and outreach service. Rose has been instrumental in the development of an enhanced service response for indigenous women and children affected by family violence in Victoria.

Noreen Toohey was the first woman magistrate appointed to a country court in November 1995. Noreen is the lead Magistrate at the Family Violence Court Division at Ballarat Magistrates Court, and sits at Sunshine Court where specialist family violence services are available.

Sarah Vessali has been Principal Lawyer at Women's Legal Service Victoria since 2001. She has practiced in family law and family violence in both Queensland and Victoria for the past ten years. She has a particular interest in the area of family violence and the ways in which women's experiences of the legal system in this area can affect both their progression through other jurisdictions and how they recover from their relationship breakdown. Sarah also works with WLSV's Legal Educator to develop and deliver training sessions in this area.

Angela Weller is a social worker and family therapist with a background in statutory child protection services and child and adolescent mental health services. Angela has a particular interest in using narrative approaches in her work with children and families. She is also a part time lecturer and tutor in the Department of Social Work, Monash University and is undertaking a Masters degree exploring the effectiveness of family therapy with children and families where abuse has occurred. Angela is currently employed as a Clinical Services Coordinator with the Australian Childhood Foundation.

Shane Wilson is the Domain Manager within Victoria's largest Child Protection program within the Department of Human Services, North and West Metropolitan Region. Shane oversees the delivery of Child Protection Intake, Protective Investigations, Community Partnerships and Family Contact and Support. This role is responsible the delivery of front end Child Protection services involving the management of over 100 Child Protection staff located over 2 sites. Shane has over 16 years experiences within statutory Child Protection services in both Queensland and Victoria.

Donna Zander is a member of the Training Consultancy and Development Team, at the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre. In this role she has been developing and delivering the children and young people and domestic violence training programs and advanced professional development series. Her experience in the child, youth and family violence field spans over twenty years. As a practitioner her expertise is in family preservation, sexual assault, and migrant and young people's services. Prior to her current role she was a Manager of regional Out of Home Care services, including residential care for four years.



To register

RSVP 9th July

- Registration for the day, including morning plenary and afternoon workshops, is online.
- Go to www.eventoffice.com.au/dhs to register for the morning session and afternoon workshop of your choice.
- Confirmation of your allocated workshop and room location will be by email.
- Please rsvp by Monday 9th of July.
- Queries please contact Katherine.Anastasiou@dhs.vic.gov.au or ecec.rsvp@dhs.vic.gov.au
- Disability access through Swanston Street entrance - copper doors to left of main entrance as you face the entrance. Please let us know if we can assist with any access needs.
- There will be a sector exhibition housed in the foyer and bookings will be taken from organisations wanting to participate. Contact Leticia.Quintana@dhs.vic.gov.au
 - Information displays
 - Books and resources available
 - Bring information to share

This practice forum is presented by the Department of Human Services, Department for Victorian Communities and the Domestic Violence and Incest Resource Centre with support from City of Melbourne.

Thanks to the organising committee including DVIRC, DHS and DVC staff, speakers, workshop presenters and facilitators, City of Melbourne for sponsorship and all volunteers.

*Integrated Family Violence Services Practice Forum
Working together to reduce family violence in Victoria*

every child every chance
a good childhood is in everyone's best interests



Department for
Victorian Communities

The annual Women's Safety Forum and the launch of the Family Violence Risk Assessment and Risk Management Framework by the lead Family Violence Minister Jacinta Allan MP will be held on the 23 July 2007. Please contact the Office of Women's Policy on (03) 9208 3129 if you are interested in further information.

Partners in Prevention

Date: Thurs 26 July 2007

Venue: YWCA, Elizabeth St, Melbourne

Contact: Kiri at DVIRC on 9486 9866 or email kbear@dvirc.org.au

PIP is a new statewide network for community sector professionals who are working with young people to prevent violence against women. The network has been funded by VicHealth and will be based at DVIRC. The network will be launched with a forum on violence prevention and young people.

Speakers include *Dr Moira Carmody* (University of Western Sydney), who is currently carrying out research on promoting sexual ethics among young people, *Kim Webster* (VicHealth) on their new 'Framework to guide the primary prevention of intimate partner violence' and a panel featuring several Victorian violence prevention projects targeting young people.