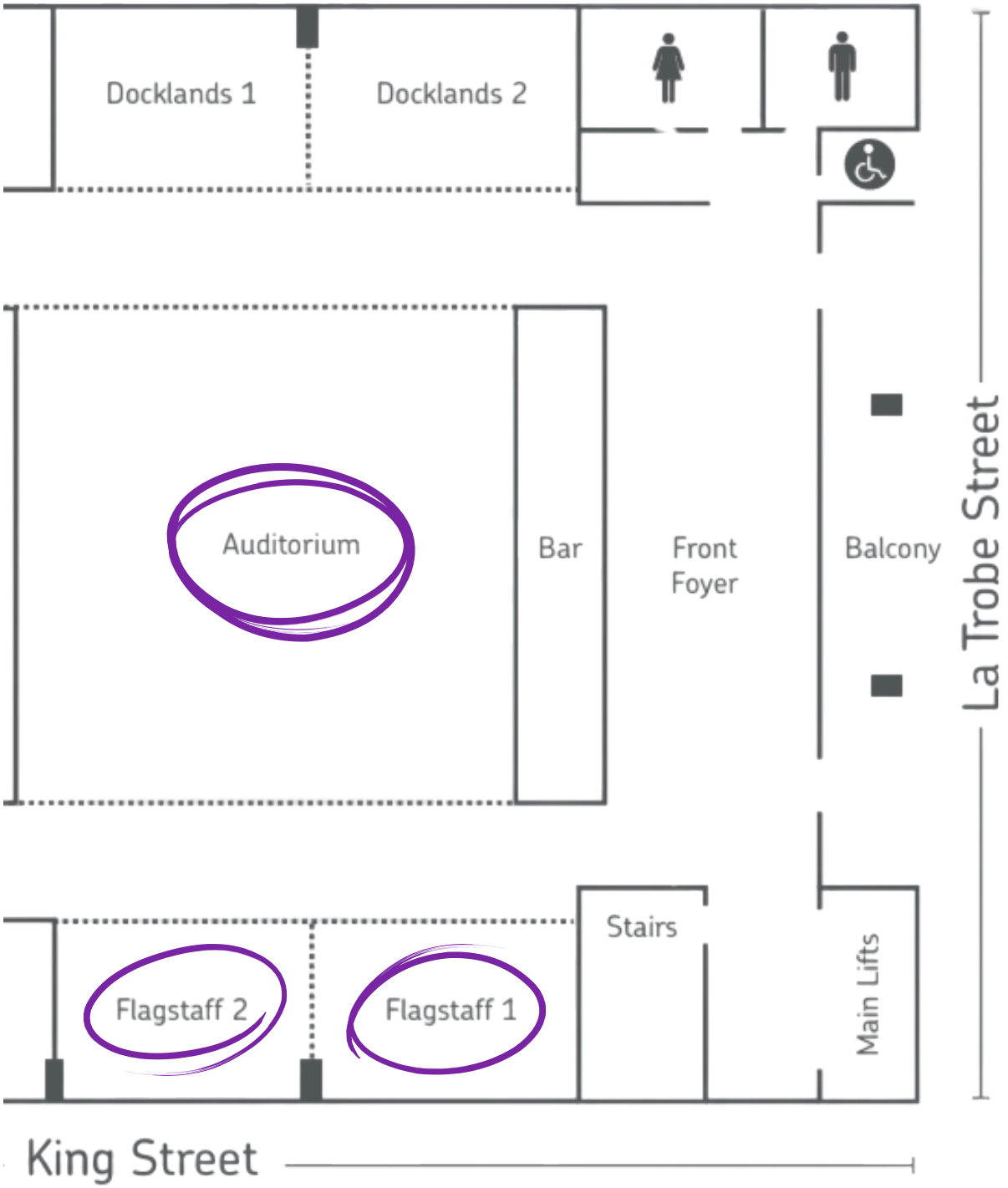
AVITH Symposium:

Paving the way with best practice

Tuesday 18 March 2025

Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

Venue Map


Docklands 1
Docklands 2
Auditorium
Bar
Front
Foyer
Balcony
La Trobe Street
Stairs
Main Lifts
Flagstaff 2
Flagstaff 1
King Street

Agenda

8:00am	Registrations Open		
8:50am	Doors Open		
9:00am	**Welcome to Country** Murrundindi (Ngurungaeta of the Wurundjeri people)		
9:10am	**Opening Address** Deb Tsorbaris (Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare CEO)		
9:20am	**Reframing Young Person Violence through a Neuroaffirmative Lens** Dr Allison Cox (Director - Take Two, Berry Street)		
9:45am	**Understanding and Responding to Aggressive and Escalating Behaviours in Young People** Trent Savill (Director, Complex Care)		
10:40am	Morning Tea		
11:00am	**Supported Not Stuck: Insights from VLA's Research into Intervention Orders Against Children and Young People** Katie Bates & Alma Mistry (Victorian Legal Aid)		
	Breakout Room Workshops		
	Flagstaff Room 1	**Flagstaff Room 2**	**Auditorium**
11:30am	**AVITH and Young People with a Disability: Collaborative Practice with the NDIS** A La Rocca & J King (Peninsula Health)	**Mother's Experience of Service Delivery** Peer Mentor (EACH)	**Formal Evaluation Findings of Breaking the Cycle** D Giles & K Badham (Anglicare Research Team)
12:00pm	**AVITH Early Intervention: Utilising Groupwork to Empower Schools to Identify & Respond to AVITH** L Clements & C Reid (Australian Childhood Foundation)	**PAWS for Change: Using Therapy Dogs to Support Young People Using Violence in the Home** C Manners (Mackillop Family Services)	**Timing is Everything: Using the 'Cycle of Adolescent Violence' Practice Tool** L Freiverts (Anglicare Meridian)
12:30pm	Lunch		

Breakout Room Workshops

	Flagstaff Room 1	Flagstaff Room 2	Auditorium
1:15pm	**Supporting Families Through Flexible Service Provision** M Lardner & L Jordan (Cafs)	**Addressing AVITH Through the Prism of Multiculturalism & Faith** K Almeida, L Strouzas & L Lim (Drummond Street Services, Melbourne City Mission & Centre for Multicultural Youth)	**Creating Safety in Schools: Enhanced Support for Increased Engagement** E Poynter & S Brilliant (Saints College)
1:45pm	**Calming Waters: Addressing Adolescent Violence (AVITH) within an ACCO Model** R Bennett (Wathaurong)	**A Pathway to Connection: Joint Painting with Young People and their Caregivers** K Richards & J Fitzgerald (Berry Street)	**Child-Parent Dynamics in Dyads Experiencing Parent-Directed Aggression** A Curtis & T Harries (Deakin University)
2:15pm	**Working Through Blocked Care to Help Manage Family Expectations: Contrasting Case Studies** J Ayling (Berry Street)	**Supporting Conversation with Young People About Violence Using Quantum's Practice Tool** T Hancock & C Legg (Quantum Support Services)	**Using Assessment to Inform Intervention: Building Healthy Relationships** C Hodgson & N Netherway (Meli)
2:45pm	Afternoon Tea		
3:10pm	Door Prize		
3:15pm	**Does One Size Really Fit All?: The Challenges of Applying Victoria's Standard Legal Response to Young People's Use of Violence in the Home** Facilitated by Elena Campbell (Director, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT) **Panelists** Grace Buckley (Senior Constable, Victoria Police) Aly Butchers (Senior Lawyer, Youthlaw) Negar Panahi (Principal Managing Lawyer - Balit Ngulu, VALS)		
3:55pm	**Closing Remarks** Deb Tsorbaris		
4:00pm	Event End		

Speakers

Welcome to Country

Murrundindi



The name, "Murrundindi," means Home in the Mountain and was given to Murrundindi in a naming ceremony by his mother Gumbri. Murrundindi is the Ngurungaeta (Head Man) and Elder of the Wurundjeri tribe and he is also a direct descendant of Bebejern, Ngurungaeta (King) of the Wurundjeri - who signed the 1835 treaty of Melbourne with John Batman.

Murrundindi is much more than a peace keeper and a spiritual custodian of the land around the Melbourne region. He has spent the last 40 years sharing his culture and his message of love and acceptance through education in schools, many communities, and at Healesville Sanctuary. He is keenly motivated to share his knowledge of plants, animals, food and cultural practices of the Wurundjeri with all people.

Murrundindi's core values are Respect, Unity and Inclusivity. His mission is to be a bridge between the timeless traditions of Indigenous cultures and the modern world, fostering respect, understanding, and recognition for their invaluable contributions to the global tapestry of human heritage. His purpose is to share and celebrate his culture with people from all walks of life.

Pallyan



Pallyan is Murrundindi's son who has recently returned home to Melbourne after spending the last 15 years in New Zealand to join Murrundindi on his journey to share and celebrate Indigenous culture. Last year Pallyan launched a Woiwurrung Language Program into schools teaching Wurundjeri language and Culture to children from ELC to Secondary.

Speakers

Opening & Closing Address

Deb Tsorbaris



Deb Tsorbaris is the CEO of the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare, a role she has held for the past decade. The Centre is Victoria's peak body for child and family services, and Deb's passionate advocacy is focused on supporting children, young people, and families experiencing disadvantage.

Deb has over 35 years of experience in the not-for-profit and public sectors and has held executive positions in organisations working in youth services, disability support, homelessness assistance, drug and alcohol services, and employment. Before joining the Centre, Deb held senior executive positions in the Victorian State Government.

Deb provides policy leadership to both state and federal governments and makes significant contributions to the child and family services sector. She has played a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among government and community sectors to support organisations working with children and families. In recognition of her outstanding work with children, families, and organisations that support them, Deb was honoured with the prestigious Robin Clark Leadership Award in 2022.

Deb serves as the Board Chair of Families Australia, the national peak body for families, leading the board in representing over 800 member organisations across Australia. She also serves on the Board of the Brian M Davis Charitable Trust.

Presentations - Plenary Keynote

Reframing Young Person Violence through a Neuroaffirmative Lens

Many specialist AVITH practitioners report that many of the young people they work with are neurodivergent. Is it time to consider new ways of reconceptualising this practice issue to bring about change in language, prevention and response?

Dr Allison Cox is the Director of the Berry Street Take Two program which provides therapeutic services to children impacted by child abuse, neglect, family violence and other adverse experiences. Allison has a background in Occupational Therapy, extensive experience in child and adolescent mental health and is a keen advocate for improving the service responses for the more vulnerable children, young people and families in our community.

Speaker

Dr Allison Cox

Director - Take Two, Berry Street



Presentations - Plenary Keynote

Understanding and Responding to Aggressive and Escalating Behaviours in Young People

This session explores the experience of relational trauma in young people through a neuroscience lens and will provide participants with a better understanding of how to engage and build critical cognitive and relational skills in young people using violence.

Speaker

Trent Savill



Trent Savill is a founding Director of Complex Care and has been supporting children with complex behavioural needs within the child protection system for over 20 years. In his role as Director, Trent leads and supervises a team of therapists and behaviour support practitioners, and provides training and clinical guidance to the sector around trauma informed care and responding to the needs of young people with complex/ high-risk behaviours and presentations.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Supported Not Stuck: Insights from VLA's Research Into Intervention Orders Against Children and Young People

Through conversations with young people and families that have experienced the IVO process and analysing our own court files and data, we found that IVO applications are becoming a common response to a broad spectrum of children's behavioural issues ranging from emotional dysregulation to violence and self-harm.

- The use of IVOs for families in crisis: IVOs are often used by police to address the reactive behaviours of children and young people who are often victim survivors themselves and in need of support, not court intervention.
- The use of IVOs for disputes in schools: IVOs are increasingly being used to manage disputes between young people in schools. Our research shows that the consequences of an IVO arising in school are significant, including a child being excluded from their school.
- Effectiveness of IVOs: The current IVO process is not effectively addressing the root causes of adolescents who use violence. Our research suggests that the system requires substantial reforms to better support both the respondents and their families.

Presentation objectives:

- To present our research findings and discuss the implications for policy and practice.
- To highlight the need for a more holistic approach to addressing adolescent violence.
- To propose recommendations for improving the IVO process and supporting affected families.

We believe that our research offers valuable insights into adolescents who use violence and the limitations of the current IVO system. We are eager to share our findings and engage in meaningful discussions with attendees to explore potential solutions and collaborative efforts.

Speakers

Katie Bates



Katie Bates is a Senior Policy and Project Officer in the Family, Youth Children's Law directorate at VLA. Prior to joining VLA Katie worked as a team leader on systemic inquiries with the Commission for Children and Young People and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office. Katie has also practised as a solicitor at the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency based in Darwin

Alma Mistry



Alma Mistry is the Strategy Manager in the Family, Youth Children's Law directorate at Victoria Legal Aid (VLA). In this role, Alma leads policy and law reform across the family violence, family law and child protection legal systems. Alma joined VLA in 2017 as Senior Communications Adviser, working on VLAs strategic advocacy initiatives including its test case against Robodebt and reforming sexual harassment laws to improve outcomes for victim survivors. Prior to joining VLA, Alma worked as a public interest journalist.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

AVITH and Young People with a Disability: Collaborative Practice with the NDIS

The Keeping Families Safe team from Peninsula Health will be drawing upon research and practice knowledge in highlighting working alongside young people demonstrating violent/harmful behaviours, who live with a disability. This discussion will particularly focus on meaningful and collaborative practice strategies in liaising with the NDIS, young person and their family/caregivers.

Speakers

Ali La Rocca



Ali La Rocca is a social worker with 15+ years of experience working in the public health sector. For the past 10 years, Ali has specialised in providing a trauma response to those affected by Family Violence and sexual assault, as a trauma counsellor. With a key focus on the way our bodies respond to trauma. Ali has many years of clinical and leadership experience, where she is most passionate about meeting the needs of the service user and ensuring productive engagement. Ali has now been the Senior Clinician of Peninsula Health's, Keeping Families Safe program for the past 16-months, specialising in adolescent and family work in the AVITH space.

Jack King



Jack King is a dedicated social worker with almost five years of experience supporting young people facing complex mental health challenges and school disengagement within secondary schools. Passionate about amplifying young people's voices, he has worked closely with students, families, and professionals to ensure their perspectives are heard and their needs are met. Recognizing that young people are victims in their own right, he transitioned into Peninsula Health's Adolescent Violence in the Home role, where he continues to advocate for and empower young people navigating complex family dynamics.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Mother's Experience of Service Delivery

This session features a Peer Support Worker who is currently involved in service delivery of a specialist AVITH program.

The session will take the form of a semi-structured discussion, describing how a mother who had previously experienced violence from a former partner went on to experience concerning behaviours with one of her children. She talks about the type of support she needed at that time, and what she found to be most helpful.

Due to the nature of this discussion, this session is not being recorded.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Formal Evaluation Findings of Breaking the Cycle

Anglicare Victoria's AFVITH program uses family counselling and a parent/caregiver group to address adolescent violence in homes. An evaluation of pre/post data for 63 families showed reduced emotional, financial, and physical abuse as measured by the Adolescent Violent Behaviour Questionnaire (AVBQ), an AFVITH assessment measure developed by Anglicare Victoria. This presentation will outline the AVBQ and its implementation within AFVITH service delivery; highlighting its utility for assessment/review processes, and the impacts of AV's Breaking the Cycle model for reducing AFVITH.

Speakers

David Giles



David Giles is a social worker and psychology-trained researcher who has worked in the Victorian child, youth and family services sector for 17 years. David has worked as a practitioner in family services, as well as in middle and senior management of family and community services across a range of service areas. David has extensive experience in the development of assessment and outcomes frameworks, and evaluation of service models in the community services sector. David is currently Manager Evidence and Outcomes at Anglicare Victoria, and an Editorial Board member of the Children Australia journal.

Kate Badham

Kate Badham has over 15 years' experience in the children, youth and family sector, working across case management and operational leadership positions as well as program development, implementation, and review. Kate has led the implementation of the AFVITH program expansion at Anglicare Victoria, and is passionate about the delivery of evidence informed programs to improve outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

AVITH Early Intervention: Utilising Groupwork to Empower Schools to Identify & Respond to AVITH

School-based therapeutic groupwork with young people at risk of using AVITH offers an opportunity to reduce AVITH by intervening with various levels of systems surrounding young people. Finding the Path Forward (FTPF) is a school-based trauma-responsive therapeutic group for young people at risk of engaging with relational violence in home and school environments. By sharing the outcomes of FTPF, we will explore the benefits and challenges of engaging young people, their families, and schools in therapeutic groupwork in metropolitan and regional contexts.

Speakers

Laura Clements



Laura Clements is an experienced family violence social worker and senior child counsellor at the Australian Childhood Foundation. Laura works within the Pathways to Resilience and Walking Together programs in Southern and Eastern Melbourne. In these programs, Laura offers trauma-responsive therapy to children and young people who are affected by or are using violence in the home, and their families. Laura has co-facilitated ACF's 'Finding the Path Forward' program – an early intervention school-based therapeutic group for young people at risk of using relational violence.

Cameron Reid



Cameron Reid works as a Therapeutic Specialist with the Australian Childhood Foundation in the ARISE program. Cameron has 20 years experience working in the child and family sector starting out his career working in residential care and case management with high risk adolescents and spent many years working in Child Protection in Victoria and interstate in frontline and leadership roles. In recent years, Cameron has worked in therapeutic specialist roles working in residential care settings as well as direct work with young people, families, schools and other services. Cameron is particularly passionate about partnering with and empowering the 'system' around a young person to better meet their therapeutic needs.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

PAWS for Change: Using Therapy Dogs to Support Young People Using Violence in the Home

Using therapy dogs with adolescents who engage in violent behaviour can offer a unique and impactful approach to addressing emotional and behavioural challenges.

The presence of a therapy dog can help create a calming environment, build trust, and facilitate emotional expression in a non-threatening way. Adolescents who have experienced trauma or struggle with emotional regulation may find it easier to connect with a therapy dog which can serve as a bridge to more productive therapeutic interventions.

Therapy dogs can also be used as a tool to teach coping mechanisms for stress, frustration, and anger. Through structured activities, such as walking, playing, or even training the dog, adolescents can learn to channel their emotions in healthier ways.

Speaker

Carly Manners



Carly Manners is a social work qualified therapeutic specialist with 6+ years' experience in the Out of Home Care and Child, Youth and Families sector. Carly has specialised in working with adolescents and their families with a focus on trauma and the impact violence has on relationships. Carly has extensive experience working alongside the Child Protection system supporting young people in residential care, providing 1:1 therapy, family work and group work facilitation. Carly is incredibly passionate about improving the outcomes for young people in care and supporting them to develop healthy relationships. Carly is currently the coordinator and therapeutic specialist of Mackillop Family Services "Safe Relationships" program and in addition provides animal assisted therapy with therapy dog "Maggie".

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Timing is Everything: Using the 'Cycle of Adolescent Violence' Practice Tool

AVITH includes an action by an adolescent that creates fear/distress in and is intended to hurt parents/siblings and occurs in context of relationships. Family members commonly adjust their own behaviours to accommodate threats or anticipation of violence. This adjustment is a key consideration – because the element of adjustment in the relationship is why family members become 'stuck' in what they're experiencing. We will explore how to use the cycle of adolescent violence as an intervention tool that helps to map out the pattern of violent behaviour and the reactions to the violence. We will use case examples to show how to support families to begin a new and different cycle of interaction, that focuses on safety and builds moments of connection.

Speaker

Larisa Freiverts



Larisa Freiverts is a clinical family therapist with 25+ years' experience working in the community sector. Larisa has specialised in working with adolescents and their families with a key focus on trauma and the impacts of violence on relationships. Larisa has many years' experience in clinical work, group work facilitation, teaching and training and brings to her work great knowledge, skills and passion. Larisa has been the team leader and senior family therapist of the Anglicare Victoria – Meridian Youth & Family Therapy Team since 2009.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Supporting Families Through Flexible Service Provision

Using a case study to highlight the benefits of being led by the needs and pace of service users, Cafs Ballarat has adapted service delivery to meet a wide range of diverse needs - leading to improved outcomes for young people and their families in AVITH interventions.

Speaker

Marguerite Lardner



Acting Team Leader, Strengthening Connections Practitioner (she/her)

Marguerite has completed a Master of Social Work (Deakin University). She holds a strong commitment to supporting positive outcomes for children, young people, and families. Marguerite has worked in varied therapeutic and leadership roles across the past eleven years all focused within the Child and Family Sector.

Lisa Jordan



Strengthening Connections Practitioner (she/her)

Lisa has supported adolescents and their families as a practitioner in the Strengthening Connections program at Cafs for more than 3 years. Other roles in the sector include group facilitation for men's programs. Lisa is passionate about supporting young people and their families to disrupt the cycles of family violence.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Addressing AVITH Through the Prism of Multiculturalism & Faith

AVITH work is complex and multi layered. When we place the work in context of multicultural and multifaith communities, these layers become multifaceted in terms of how we name, approach and communicate risk and safety in an intersectional way. Where young people and families don't have the language around harm and violence, how can we intervene in a culturally safe and meaningful way? When families are living with the effects of colonisation, intergenerational trauma, racism and settlement issues, balancing parenting, culture, and identity can often look very different for young people, parents/carers and community members. We will share our collective insights as to what Multicultural and Multifaith AVITH practice looks like across our 3 organisations. We will provide examples of what we see through the case work, how we have responded, as well as what our learnings have been. This presentation will have a focus on stigma and shame, the complexities of language and exploring the cultural impacts on parenting.

Speakers

Kimberly Almeida



Kimberly is an Indian/Australian working on Wurundjeri, Wadawarrung and Bunurong lands as a multicultural youth worker. Kimberly holds a Bachelor of Youth Work and has worked in the out of home care sector, with newly arrived young people and for 2 years in the AVITH program Restart. Kimberly is passionate about working with a whole of family approach and addressing trauma with early interventions.

Lambros Strouzas



Lambros Strouzas completed his Master's in Social Work in 2018 and has been working in the community sector for the past 6 years. Lambros has worked with complex individuals from all walks of life, including supporting ex-offenders reintegrate back into the community, school disengagement, homeless youth and is currently working with multicultural families who are experiencing young person using violence.

Speakers

Linda Lim



Linda Lim has completed her studies in Psychology, Counselling and Social work and has been working in the community services sector for the last 9 years. Linda's primary work has been with young people and families who live with complexity and challenges including mental health, AOD, financial hardships, family violence, homelessness and school disengagement. In the last 2 years, Linda has worked as a Family Violence Youth Specialist at Drummond Street, encompassing a strengths-based, trauma-informed and whole of family approach

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Creating Safety in Schools: Enhanced Support for Increased Engagement

Saints College is a specialist secondary school, with multiple campuses, for young people seeking an alternative to mainstream education through a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. Staff work side by side with young people with the aim of re-engaging them in creative, meaningful and intentional learning. Presenters will share structures, processes and frameworks of practice that support safety at school, educational inclusion and engagement for young people who have experienced or are engaging in violent behaviour in their homes and communities.

Speakers

Emma Poynter



Emma Poynter is a youth and family worker with over 10 years' experience in supporting trauma impacted, high risk young people and their families through the flexible learning and education sector. Emma is currently Manager of Practice and Community at Saints College.

Emma believes education is a central component to empower young people to live life on their own terms. She advocates that the role of educators extends beyond a student's physical years at school, with the focus for learning to be foremost how we can support their transition into safe, connected adults and members of their community.

Stewart Brilliant

Stewart Brilliant is a dedicated and experienced professional with over 20 years of service working with traumatized children, young people and their families. Stewie has developed his wealth of experience in residential care, the community sector and flexible education, where he now holds the position of Manager of Practice and Community at Saints College. Stewart brings a compassionate and knowledgeable approach to the role, ensuring that the needs of vulnerable young people are met with empathy, understanding and care. Stewie balances this person centred approach with ensuring that young people have access to high quality education and support within the Saints College organisation.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Calming Waters: Addressing Adolescent Violence (AVITH) within an ACCO Model

Working within an ACCO model for AVITH services involves providing holistic, culturally safe, and strengths-based support to young people using violence against family members. This approach emphasises community connection, trauma-informed practices, and tailored interventions to address the unique needs of these young people and their families. By fostering a supportive environment, the model aims to promote healing, resilience, and positive change within homes and community.

Speaker

Ruby Bennett



Ruby's experience in community services began in family services in 2020, where she worked as a Case Manager and Senior Case Manager, delivering Integrated Family Services and Family Preservation & Reunification programs. Her current team consists of youth justice workers, adult justice workers and family violence practitioners (Men's and Women's). Ruby's role within the Family Violence Team has seen her oversee the Adolescents Using Violence in The Home (AVITH) program, Calming Waters, which has recently launched at Wathaurong.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

A Pathway to Connection: Joint Painting with Young People and their Caregivers

Berry Street Take Two is a statewide therapeutic program for children impacted by abuse, neglect, family violence and disrupted attachment in Victoria, Australia, with research and training capacity.

Berry Street Take Two's The Wattle Project is an Adolescent Violence in the Home (AVITH) program offering clinical and case management support to respond to young people and their families impacted by a young person's use of violence at home.

Evidence that 80% of young people using AVITH are victim-survivors of family violence (Fitzgibbon et. Al, 2022) is supported by data collected upon referral and during intervention in the Wattle Project. This practice-based presentation will illustrate how art therapy is applied within the neurodevelopmental and trauma-informed approach of The Wattle Project, Take Two to improve the safety and relational health of young people who are using violence in the home.

The presenters will describe how art therapy is uniquely positioned as a modality to treat the impacts of developmental trauma, understood to be a core driver for young people's use of harmful behaviour. The presenters will highlight art therapy assessment and intervention tools used in dyadic intervention by The Wattle Project clinicians; and how these approaches are effective when working with this cohort. Based on consistent feedback provided by clinicians and clients, the next steps will be to implement an approach to evaluate and build on the evidence base for art therapy interventions when working with young people using AVITH.

Speaker

Kate Richards



Kate Richards (she/her) is the Senior Art Therapist in the Wattle Project Berry Street Take Two team. She is a registered Art Therapist (ANZACATA) and Lecturer in the Master of Art Therapy program at La Trobe University, Melbourne. For over fifteen years, Kate has worked with children, adolescents and families using a trauma and attachment-informed approach across community-based and hospital settings locally and in Mparntwe (Alice Springs). A recent focus of her practise is group and dyadic art therapy supporting young people and caregivers to heal from family violence. This has included establishing an Open Studio group art therapy program with young people engaged in the Wattle Project. Additionally, Kate has trained as an art curator and extended her interests in the intersections between the mind, emotions and creativity through exhibitions and arts-based projects.

Jessica Fitzgerald



Jessica Fitzgerald (she/her) is a Senior Clinician in The Wattle Project Berry Street Take Two Team. She brings skills and experience from over 15 years of work as an Art Therapist, Speech Pathologist, and Support Worker in various therapeutic roles across her career. Jessica adopts a trauma-informed, developmental and relationally-focused lens to her current work supporting young people and families where the young person is using aggressive/unsafe behaviours in the home. In particular, Jessica is interested in the use of art materials and art processes to support engagement, communication and healing amongst these individuals and families.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Child-Parent Dynamics in Dyads Experiencing Parent-Directed Aggression

This presentation will discuss research around different 'types' (i.e., presentations) of dyads that experience parent-directed aggression, the clinical implications of these differences, as well as how to assess the parent and the young person to identify different dyad types.

Speakers

Dr Ashlee Curtis



Dr Ashlee Curtis is a Lecturer within the School of Psychology at Deakin University, and is stream leader of the Experiences of Harm in Vulnerable Populations group within the CONNECT research and training initiative in SEED.

Ashlee's research focusses on the factors that impact aggressive and violent behaviour across the lifespan in community, clinical, and forensic settings, including substance use, trauma, and neurocognitive impairment. Her research identifies relevant factors for aggression and violence intervention and ways to improve engagement with intervention to reduce aggressive and violent behaviour.

Dr Travis Harries



Dr Harries is an Associate Lecturer in Psychology at Deakin University in Victoria, Australia, and is a member of the CONNECT Research and Training Initiative (within the Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development (SEED)). His research area is family violence, with a specific focus on child-to-parent violence and parent-directed aggression. His research explores the family conditions which predispose and perpetuate child-to-parent violence, with an emphasis on dynamic risk factors which can be modified through formal intervention. He also works in the intimate partner violence space, understanding how early life experiences (including child-to-parent violence) contribute to the experience of partner violence in adulthood.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Working Through Blocked Care to Help Manage Family Expectations: Contrasting Case Studies

Blocked Care is a term used when a caregiver's neurobiological 'parenting systems' are compromised and their capacity to nurture a child is suppressed. It is related to stress and can manifest as different types. Supporting caregivers in a wide range of areas, including exploring their own relational trauma, can assist them to 'turn the systems back on' and therefore create realistic expectations of their child and services. We compare two case studies to outline the benefits and barriers to working through blocked care.

Speaker

John Ayling



John is a Senior Clinician at Berry Street, Take Two with previous experiences in CYMHS, private practice and disability services. He studied Psychology in UK and the USA before moving to Australia in 2010. John is particularly interested in the experiences of intergenerational relational trauma within families. He has clinical training in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, and Dyadic Developmental Psychology.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Supporting Conversation with Young People About Violence Using Quantum's Practice Tool

Supporting young people to have direct conversations about family violence can be challenging, both for the practitioner and the young person.

- How can we support the young person to have the knowledge and understanding?
- How can we build the capacity and skill of young people to have the language and voice to advocate for themselves and those around them?

Sharing the Quantum Young Person Power and Control wheel – developed in conjunction with young people session facilitators will walk through conversation approaches in both group and individual settings using the wheel. With a focus on connection before correction and building emotional intelligence, this tool supports understanding and builds confidence to identify, make change and feel confidence in understanding and setting boundaries.

Speakers

Tania Hancock



Tania Hancock is the Manager for Therapeutic Interventions at Quantum Support Services and is passionate about building and maintaining positive relationships and connections in families.

Tania has a Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma and Diplomas in Community Services, Mental Health Alcohol and other Drugs. As the founder of the Adolescent Building Connections program developed and delivered by Quantum Support Services Tania has been working in the AVITH space for over 8 years and brings over 10 years of experience working with across family violence youth and family services as well as in the Care Services Sector.

Craig Legg



Craig brings over 7 years' experience working with children and adolescents with a focus on mentoring, disability and mental health. Craig has experience within the family violence sector and has been part of the Quantum Building Connections team for over 5 years.

After completing his Diploma of Community Services Forensic, Craig has continued to support, encourage and mentor young people using a Strengths based and Trauma informed approach.

Craig is passionate about supporting and helping young people to be the best they can be and lead positive and connected lives.

Presentations - Breakout Room Workshops

Using Assessment to Inform Intervention – Building Healthy Relationships

Adolescents exhibiting challenging or aggressive behaviours in the home environment towards caregivers and their families require targeted therapeutic interventions to increase safety and improve family relationships. We will explore our Assessment Tool, what it measures and how it's used in practice to evaluate child and parent interactions, communication and underlying functions of behaviour. Using the scores in the assessment supports practitioners to formulate targeted meaningful family interventions whilst also measuring program effectiveness.

Speakers

Nadia Netherway



Nadia Netherway is a Social Worker with over 5 years' experience supporting young people and families in the Step Up – Building Healthy Relationships Program. Nadia has provided valuable insight towards an internal evaluation of the program alongside Deakin and was influential in incorporating key findings to further develop the program. Nadia works from a youth focused family lens, supporting both young people and parents together to identify and address communication barriers, resolve conflict, and support connection.

Cass Hodgson

Cass Hodgson is the Senior Step Up – Building Healthy Relationships Practitioner at Meli covering the Barwon Area. Cass has supporting children and young people at risk or entering the care system. Cass is passionate about empowering parents by supporting parents/carers to better understand their child, to implement boundaries and improve communication. Cass supports the delivery of the parent groupwork program creating an environment for parents to connect with and support one another.

Presentations - Panel

Does One Size Really Fit All?: The Challenges of Applying Victoria's Standard Legal Response to Young People's Use of Violence in the Home

A discussion of how Victoria is an outlier in its legal response to this issue; the direction we need to head to be consistent with recognising young people's vulnerability, including as victim survivors in their own right; and the legislative reform that we need in order to get there.

Facilitator

Elena Campbell



Associate Director of Research, Advocacy & Policy, Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT

Elena is a lawyer, speechwriter and former political staffer who has worked in legal and social policy for 25 years. For over a decade at the Centre for Innovative Justice, Elena has overseen a program of research which focuses on family, domestic and sexual violence, as well as the way in which trauma can push women and children into contact with and impact their experiences of legal processes. In this capacity, Elena has led projects for Government and courts to support the implementation of recommendations from Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence.

Elena has been Chief Investigator in ANROWS research into interventions with adult perpetrators and also leads research about young people's use of violence at home, including The PIPA project and WRAP Around Families Experiencing AVITH: Towards a Collaborative Service Response. In addition, Elena is leading research examining the experiences of young victim-survivors of family violence who are unsupported by a parent and a new ANROWS funded study investigating the response to young people's intimate partner violence, the IVY Study. Elena was also a member of the expert panel conducting a Rapid Review of Prevention Approaches – Unlocking the prevention potential: accelerating action to end domestic, family and sexual violence.

Panelists

Grace Buckley



Grace Buckley is a Senior Constable of Police. She has been a part of Victoria Police for over a decade and has been involved in the Proactive Policing Unit of Melbourne's Inner West and City of Yarra since 2018. Grace has a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) and is keenly interested in the criminogenic factors for youth offending, in particular Adolescent Violence in the Home. Grace often speaks at schools in relation to youth offending and online safety, and presently works in a team which prioritises proactive engagement with young people who come in to contact with the justice system via offending within schools and residential care units.

Aly Butchers



Aly Butchers is a Senior Lawyer in the Family Violence Team at Youthlaw, a community legal centre for young people under 25 years old in Victoria. Prior to joining Youthlaw Aly worked in the Aboriginal Families Practice at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, and has also worked in private practice in family law and family violence.

Negar Panahi



Negar (Negs) Panahi is the Principal Managing Lawyer of Balit Ngulu Practice at Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service. Negs started her legal career at VALS as a volunteer in 2017 and has since worked in various roles in the organisation. Negs developed a strong passion for assisting youth that have come into contact with the criminal legal system. In September 2021, Negs transitioned to the Balit Ngulu, VALS dedicated practice for children and young people, and assisted with the program's relaunch. Negs has been involved in significant advocacy around reducing the criminalisation of children and advocating for more diversion opportunities for all young people.

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Tas/Vic acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work, the palawa/pakana of lutruwita and the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We honour their enduring strength and aspirations for the future of their young people, communities, and lands.

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