

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

Forum program

MC: Ms Maria Dimopoulos, Myriad Consultants

Program

- 8.30 Registration until 8.50am – Main entrance Town Hall
- 8.55 The Eltham East Primary School Choir
- 9.10 Welcome to Country – Joy Murphy Wandin Aboriginal Elder of the Wurundjeri people
- 9.20 **Opening – Minister for Children, The Hon. Lisa Neville MP**
- 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
Keeping it Real: Holding the Child in mind in the complexity of family violence
- 10.30 Questions from the audience – roving microphones available
- 11.00 Morning tea – help your self – this will be available at rear of main hall
- 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 and **Arina Aoina**, CEO Starick Services, WA
Domestic violence intervention...assessing safety and accountability. Whose responsibility is it?
- 12.20 Questions from the audience – roving microphones available
- 12.40 **Close – Minister for Women’s Affairs, The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP**
- 12.50 Lunch – served at rear of hall
- 1.45 Workshop registrations commence at each workshop room
- 2.00 – 3.50 Concurrent workshops
- 4.00 – 4.30 Afternoon Tea and Finish

Evaluation form Please complete the attached evaluation form and leave it at the registration desk when you leave, or fax it to 9096 9145. This will help us plan future forums and events.



Workshops - concurrent workshops 2.00 - 3.50pm

Please register outside your allocated workshop by 1.45pm. Workshops will commence at 2pm.

Workshop 1 (120 people) Supper Room Level 3

Family violence – Legal responses to children

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

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.

panel members

- Fay Daniel, Manager of the Victoria Police Family Violence Unit
- Libby Eltringham, Community Legal Worker
- Noreen Toohey, Magistrate, Family Violence Court Division
- Sarah Vessali, Principal Lawyer, Women's Legal Service Victoria
- Kirsten Williams, Child and Adolescent Support Workers, Family & Domestic Violence Team, Berry Street

Fay Daniel is the Manager of the Victoria Police Family Violence Unit. She has been involved in family violence issues since joining Victoria Police in 1975. During her police service, Fay has taken up the roles of a station Family Violence Liaison Officer and as a Regional Family Violence Advisor. In 2002 Fay participated in the China-Australia Human Rights Technical Cooperation Program which conducted workshops on domestic violence in China, making presentation on the role of police in managing and investigating family violence and the development of integrated services to support victims.

Libby Eltringham is the Community Legal Worker at DVIRC. In this role she provides training to workers in generalist and homelessness services on general and legal issues, as well as organizing the annual DVIRC Family Law Forum. As a member of the Statewide Steering Committee to Reduce Family Violence (now the Family Violence Statewide Advisory Committee) Libby has also worked with Government and non-government organisations over the past 5 years to develop the new policy and practice directions that led to an integrated family violence system in Victoria. She was also involved in the review of laws relating to Family Violence in Victoria through the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Advisory Committee.

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.

Kirsten Williams is one of the Berry Street, Child and Adolescent Support Workers within the Family & Domestic Violence Team, Northern sub region. Kirsten works with both the child/adolescent and their mother/carer to work through the issues of how family violence has impacted upon both the child's behavioral or emotional/psychological state and the mother's/carer's parenting. The work can be done through either individual counselling or groupwork. Kirsten has an undergraduate degree in psychology and is currently studying her Masters in Child Psychotherapy.



Workshop 2 (60 people) Condell Room Level 1 (same level as Main Hall)

Assisting men to have non-violent relationships with their children

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.

facilitator • Danny Blay, CEO, No To Violence

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.

presenters • Sue Clout, Men's Behaviour Change Facilitator and Family Therapist
• Susan Geraghty, Trainer and Facilitator, Men's Behaviour Change Programs, Family Life
• Chris Grace, Team Leader Men's Health Whitehorse Community Health Centre

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 has held clinical registration with the Victorian Association of Family Therapists for the past eight years.

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.



Workshop 3 (45 people) Portico Room Level 2

Creative engagement with mothers and children affected by the trauma of family violence

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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 developed and delivered 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. She has previously managed a regional Out of Home Care service, including residential care for four years.



Workshop 4 (50 people) Hoddle Room Level 1 (same level as Main Hall)

Working with Indigenous children affected by family violence – a child's view

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

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.

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

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*.

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.



Workshop 5 (60 people) Yarra Room Level 2

Responding effectively to children: What Family Services and Family Violence Services bring to each other

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.

- facilitator*
- Julie Boffa, Project Manager, Children’s Protection Society on behalf of the North East metro Child and Family Services Alliance, incorporating Child FIRST.

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.

- presenters*
- Joanna Bock, Regional Director, Northern Region, Berry St Victoria
 - Kate Cannon, Family Violence Program, Berry Street Victoria
 - Alison Duncan, Family Services Coordinator City of Darebin
 - Rose Marsh, Family Violence Program, Berry Street Victoria
 - Felicity Rorke, Manager, Northern Family Violence Services, Berry Street Victoria
 - Judy Walsh, CHILD First Manager, Children’s Protection Society

Joanna Bock See Keynote speakers’ biographies on page 9.

Kate Cannon Family Violence Program, Berry Street Victoria

Alison Duncan Darebin Council Family Services - Co-ordinator. Alison is the Manager of Family Services for the City of Darebin. She has previously worked for eight years in sexual assault services and has worked for the Victorian Ombudsman. She is a Social Worker and Art Therapist who has many years of experience working with children and families affected by family violence and trauma.

Rose Marsh Family Violence Program, Berry Street Victoria

Felicity Rorke Manager, Northern Family Violence Services, Berry Street Victoria

Judy Walsh Children’s Protection Society. Judy is the Manager of Child FIRST North East metro which is one of three initial Child First’s established in metropolitan Melbourne in April this year. Judy had managed the Sexual Assault & Treatment Services for children and young people at Children’s Protection Society prior to this. Judy has worked in child and family welfare for 21 years, including 11 years in Child Protection in the northern region, management roles in the U.K., in Oxfordshire, in residential services for young people and juvenile justice.



Workshop 6 (200 People) Main Hall Level 1

Child Protection and Family Violence – directions for good practice

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.

- facilitator*
- Lynne Mcpherson, Manager, Professional Development, Child Protection and Family Services Branch, Office for Children
- presenters*
- Arina Aoina, CEO Starick Services
 - Mark Glasson, Executive Director Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Communities WA
 - Cathy Humphreys, Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare, University of Melbourne
 - Kylie Laidlaw, DHS Project Officer, In Home Support for Aboriginal Families
 - Noel Macnamara, Manager, Child and Family Services, Hume Region.
 - Fiona McCormack, CEO, Domestic Violence Victoria
 - Robyn Miller, Principal Practitioner, Office for Children
 - Karen Sutherland, Manager, Child Protection Gippsland Region
 - Shane Wilson, Child Protection Domain Manager, Intake, Investigation Community Partnerships, North and West Metropolitan Region

Arina Aoina See Keynote speakers' biographies on page 9.

Mark Glasson See Keynote speakers' biographies on page 9.

Professor Cathy Humphreys See Keynote speakers' biographies on page 9.

Kylie Laidlaw is Project Officer for the In Home Support for Aboriginal Families initiative, with the Department of Human Services in Barwon South West region. Prior to this recent appointment, Kylie has had experience working as a Child Protection Practitioner and further experience as a Social Worker working with families and children in non-government agencies in Victoria, Western Australia and Scotland. Kylie is supported and guided in her workshop presentation by Libby Lesock who is a Family Violence Worker with Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative in Warrnambool and Tania Jones who is the Indigenous Family Violence Project Officer for the Barwon South West Region.

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 nine 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.

Fiona McCormack is the CEO of Domestic Violence Victoria Inc. DVVic is a value driven peak advocacy organisation committed to the rights of women and children to live free of violence. It comprises a membership of Women's family/domestic violence services operating across the state of Victoria. DVVic represents women and children's family violence services on a range of integrated family violence committees.

Robyn Miller See Keynote speakers' biographies on page 9.

Dr Karen Sutherland is a social worker and family therapist with over twenty years experience in the field. She has extensive knowledge and skills as a clinical practitioner, consultant, trainer, clinical supervisor and teacher. Karen has specialised theoretical and practice expertise in the areas of family violence, sexual abuse and trauma. Karen is currently employed as the Manager of Child Protection in the Gippsland Region.

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 two sites. Shane has over 16 years experiences within statutory Child Protection services in both Queensland and Victoria.



Biographies

Welcome to Country

Joy Murphy Wandin is an Aboriginal Elder of the Wurundjeri people. Joy has been involved with Aboriginal issues for 30 years and is Chairperson of the Australian Indigenous Consultative Assembly. She has held executive positions across the sectors of Government.

Joy is an honorary Professor of Swinburne University, a Trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria, a member of the Victoria Police Ethical Standards Consultative Committee and the Equal Opportunity Commission; she also operates her own business Jarlo Visions.

Minister for Children, The Hon. Lisa Neville MP

Lisa Neville was appointed the Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Children and Minister for Aged Care in November 2006.

Ms Neville has served as the Member for Bellarine since 2002. Ms Neville is the first Minister for Mental Health in the Victorian Government, providing leadership for the further development of mental health and drug and alcohol services.

Across the three portfolio areas the Minister is responsible for delivering the Victorian Government policies:

- To improve the mental health service system in Victoria to better meet the needs of all people with a mental illness and substance use issues, their families and carers;
- To improve outcomes for all Victorian children, including indigenous children, through the delivery of accessible, high quality early years health, education and care services to fit the changing patterns of working families; and responsive, accessible child sexual assault services;
- To provide services through the Government's new, integrated approach to family violence to better support and protect women and children;
- To promote and celebrate Victoria's 870,000 seniors, leading the implementation of the Government's positive ageing strategies and initiatives to protect the dignity and safety of seniors.

Prior to her election as the Member for Bellarine, Ms Neville worked and volunteered in a range of organisations that have sought to build strong local communities in the region. These included:

- Manager of SpringDale Neighbourhood Centre in Drysdale;
- Chair of the Barwon Network of Neighbourhood Houses;
- President of the Board of Barwon Health; and
- A member of the Board, of the Victorian Council of Social Science.

Ms Neville holds Bachelors degrees in Arts and Law and is a proud resident of Geelong.

Minister for Women's Affairs, The Hon. Jacinta Allan MP

As Minister for Women's Affairs, **Jacinta Allan** is helping create better outcomes for Victorian women – who make up 51 per cent of the State's population – across a range of government policies and programs.

Ms Allan is working to increase the representation and participation of women in public and civic life, and advocating for initiatives to give women the skills they need to be able to fully participate in the paid workforce and secure their financial future for retirement.

Ms Allan leads Victoria's groundbreaking work and new approach to family violence. She is leading the \$35.1 million four-year commitment to develop a new integrated system to better protect women and children, make men accountable for their behaviour and reduce the impact and incidence of family violence.

Through forums, activities and community consultations, Ms Allan will ensure government policies and programs respond to the diverse needs of women across Victoria.

Ms Allan was elected as the Member for Bendigo East in September 1999 at the age of 25, making her the youngest woman to ever be elected to the Victorian Parliament.

Ms Allan is also Minister for Skills, Education Services and Employment.



Keynote speakers' biographies

Arina Aoina is the CEO for Starick Services, a Family and Domestic Violence agency and long standing Chairperson of and consultations state-wide, nationally and internationally and sits on a number of Boards. She specialises in the area of integrated interagency community responses to FDV and is deeply committed to reducing incidences of family and domestic violence.

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.

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.

Professor Cathy Humphreys is the Alfred Felton Chair of Child and Family Welfare, a position established through a partnership between the University of Melbourne, the Alfred Felton Trust and the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare to assist with the development of relevant research and knowledge to inform policy and practice. Cathy has a strong background in practice, research and publication in the family violence and child abuse area. An exciting new development has been the awarding of an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant to explore and evaluate the Victorian Family Violence Reform Initiative in conjunction with the Departments of Human Services, Justice, Victoria Police and Victorian Department of Communities. A research team will be led by Cathy.

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.



- Special needs** If you have any particular requirements on the day please see one of our volunteers and they will be able to assist you.
- Disability access** Disability access is 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.
- Auslan** Auslan available for the day.
- Disabled toilets** Ground floor and Level 3.
- Resources** There will be free and on sale resources housed in the foyer and at the rear of the hall, please have a look as there is some excellent material available.
- Keynote and workshop presentations** Copies of some presentations will be available on the DHS website from August 20 2007 www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/integrated-family-violence/
- Contact** If you need to contact the forum organisers please send email to ecec.rsvp@dhs.vic.gov.au

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 DHS and 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.

Special thanks to the forum organisers.

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*