

Masterclass program

Why sexual abuse happens, and what might be done to further prevent it

In this workshop I try to come to grips with the big questions about sexual abuse: why does it happen, and how can it be further prevented?

I will address the 'why' question by offering an analysis of individual (biological & developmental), situational, and ecological (family, peer, organisational, neighbourhood and socio-cultural) factors, how these interact to produce a first abuse incident, and how for abusers various desistance and persistence trajectories unfold from that point.

I will then outline a comprehensive framework for targeting and organising knowledge-based prevention strategies, based on public health and crime prevention concepts and methods.

The workshop will be interactive. It is intended to be of interest to researchers, practitioners and policy-makers wishing to engage in critical thinking and frank discussion about these fundamental questions.



Professor Stephen Smallbone

Director, Griffith Youth Forensic Service, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University

Stephen Smallbone is a psychologist and Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University, Director of Griffith Youth Forensic Service, and an

Australian Research Council Future Fellow. His recent publications include the books *Situational Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse* (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006, Criminal Justice Press), *Child Pornography on the Internet* (Wortley & Smallbone, 2006, U.S. Dept of Justice), *Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: Evidence, Policy and Practice* (Smallbone, Marshall, & Wortley, 2008, Willan), and *Internet Child Pornography: Causes, Investigation, and Prevention* (Wortley & Smallbone, 2012, Praeger). His current projects include empirical investigations of the development, onset and progression of youth and adult sexual offending, developing and testing an ecological field-based intervention model for adjudicated youth sexual offenders, and the implementation and evaluation of place-based strategies for preventing sexual violence and abuse. He is the incoming editor (from 2014) of *The Journal of Sexual Aggression*.

Working with Men and Boys – A Child Protection Strategy

In order to continue building on the learnings which emanated from the first Denver Thinking Space (Round Table), which focused on Child Sexual Abuse, convened in May 2011, ISPCAN sent a set of questions to international experts and researchers in the field to identify evidence based programmes on preventing child sexual abuse through working with men and boys. The responses were collated and a document developed in order to initiate and stimulate further discussion on the subject at the second Denver Thinking Space, convened by ISPCAN in Denver 13th and 14th March 2013, and through a virtual internet discussion on the same subject, convened to run parallel to the Denver Meeting Space. The research report was then further extended and refined with inputs from these processes.

This workshop serves to present the findings of this research, invite comment, and identify further questions and ideas on this critical issue. The document is not seen as a finalised research product, but will be used to stimulate ongoing debate and innovative, evidence based practice and should therefore be regarded as a continuing work in progress.



Joan van Niekerk

B SOC SC (Hons) (Social Work)

M Med Sc (Medical and Psychiatric Social Work)

Joan van Niekerk has worked in child protection in South Africa for 25 years, working with child victims and their families as well as children in conflict with the law. She was Chairperson of the SA Law Reform Commission Project Committee on Sexual Offences which culminated in the reform of legislation dealing with sexual offences and participated actively in other reforms of law and policy directed at the protection of children in South Africa.

Joan van Niekerk worked at Childline South Africa for 21 years and assisted with the development of the Childline call centres in KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape, as well as the development of therapeutic programmes for abused children and children whose behaviour is sexually inappropriate. She is established the national office of Childline, and developed training programmes on inter-sector management of child protection, psycho-social therapies for children and families and child law for both Childline staff, volunteers and other sectors involved in child protection. She has written manuals for use in child protection work, book chapters, numerous articles and conducted many workshops and presentations at national, regional and international conferences.

Joan van Niekerk has provided training and consultation services in a number Sub-Saharan African Countries including Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Namibia. She remains in part time employment with Childline SA, and works privately as a child rights consultant.

She has been a member of the Executive Council of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and is presently President Elect of the Society.



Jenny Gray

Jenny Gray OBE trained as a social worker in New Zealand and has been in child care social work, management and policy development since 1979. She joined the Department of Health, England in 1991 and led the development of new inspection methodologies. In 1995, Jenny was appointed as the professional adviser to the British

government on safeguarding children. She led policy development on the assessment of children in need, reviews of serious cases and child deaths and the commissioning of safeguarding children research. Jenny held this post until September 2012, since when she has been a social work consultant. In 2007, Jenny was awarded The Order of the British Empire and an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health. She is currently the President of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect.

Risk in early life and oral language competence: Lessons from child protection and youth justice

This interactive workshop will focus on the critical role played by early oral language competence (everyday talking and listening skills) as a protective factor in early life. Oral language competence is the means by which we negotiate the business of everyday life and is critical to the formation and maintenance of relationships across the lifespan. Evidence concerning the developmental correlates of language competence (in particular secure attachment, social cognition, and affect regulation) will be presented, and the role played by oral language competence as the basis of the life-changing transition to literacy in the first three years of school will be emphasised. Recent evidence (Australian and overseas) indicates that vulnerable young people (those who have experienced early maltreatment and/or become engaged with youth justice) face a high risk of unidentified, but clinically significant language deficits. This presentation will address implications of this research with respect to prevention and intervention policy and practice, across the health, education, justice and welfare sectors. Particular mention will be made of verbally mediated processes such as early educational disengagement, forensic interviewing, counselling, restorative justice, and literacy interventions for young offenders.



*Associate Professor
Pamela Snow*

School of Psychology and Psychiatry and the School of Rural Health at Monash University

Pamela Snow is an Associate Professor in a conjoint appointment between the School of Psychology and Psychiatry and the School of

Rural Health at Monash University (based at the Bendigo Regional Clinical School in Central Victoria). She is the academic convener for Medicine of the Mind (Psychiatry) in Year 4 of the Monash MBBS (Northern Victoria Medical Education Network stream) and also coordinates via distance education the Graduate Diploma in Mental Health for Teaching Professions.

She is a registered psychologist, having qualified originally in speech pathology. Her research has been funded by nationally competitive schemes such as the ARC Discovery Program, ARC Linkage Program, and the Criminology Research Council, and spans various aspects of risk in childhood and adolescence:

- the oral language skills of high-risk young people (youth offenders and those in the sate care system), and the role of oral language competence as an academic and mental health protective factor in childhood and adolescence;
- linguistic aspects of investigative interviewing with children / adolescents as witnesses, suspects, victims in criminal investigations;

A/Prof Snow has research links with the education, welfare and justice sectors, and her research has been published in a wide range of international journals. She is frequently called upon to address education, health, welfare, and forensic audiences. A/Prof Snow is a Fellow of the Speech Pathology Association of Australia and is the past Victorian State Chair of the Australian Psychological Society. She has over 100 publications, comprising refereed papers, book chapters, monographs and research reports.

Making Kids Central: towards child centred practice

Over the past 15 years the benefits of employing child-centred and family-focussed practice have been promoted throughout the broad welfare system. However, there is little agreement as to what constitutes child-centred practice or the practical challenges and opportunities this approach takes. This interactive workshop provides an overview of the rationale for, approaches to and tools that enable child-centred practice, particularly in adult and family-focussed services. Drawing on research conducted by the Institute of Child Protection Studies at the Australian Catholic University primarily in the areas of homelessness, child protection and social welfare, the workshop will provide participants with practical ways to engage children, to work with them to explore their needs, experiences and aspirations, to support family strengths and to build child-centred service responses. The workshop will draw on the Institute's Finding

their Way Home research project that focused on accompanying children's experiences of homelessness, and the Kids Central toolkit and training program. It promotes reflexive practice and positive collaborations with other agencies, with parents and families and with children and young people themselves.



Dr Tim Moore

Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Child Protection Studies

Dr Tim Moore has over 18 years of experience working within the children, youth, family and community sectors. In 2005 joined the Institute of Child Protection Studies at ACU National. In this role, Tim has been engaged particularly on projects targeting children, young people and families but has also participated in projects focusing on health, mental illness and education. Tim has adopted a number of peer-based and pathfinder models that engage children and young people in research design and delivery which have provided them with opportunities to build their skills, knowledge and confidence. With Debbie Noble-Carr Tim has developed and conducted the Kids Central Training package on child-centred practice.

