

The Early Years: From Research to Policy to Practice Seminar

Effective approaches to supporting vulnerable families and preventing child abuse and neglect

Date: Wednesday 16th November, 2011
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



Background

The Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne in conjunction with Families Australia and The R.E. Ross Trust wish to invite you to a seminar '**Effective approaches to supporting vulnerable families and preventing child abuse and neglect**' on **Wednesday 16th November, 2011** at the **Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Wharf**. This is the fourth seminar in the Early Years: From Research to Policy to Practice seminar series for 2011, supported by a grant from **The R.E. Ross Trust**.

This seminar will bring together speakers from Australia (Dr Tim Moore, Dr Robyn Mildon and Associate Professor Fiona Arney) and from Canada (Associate Professor Aron Shlonsky) to discuss effective approaches to supporting vulnerable families and preventing child abuse and neglect.

About the Seminar

This seminar is designed for local government, policy makers, researchers, and early childhood and community services staff. This seminar will discuss policy, practice and research about communities making a local impact to improve the outcomes for children.

About the keynote speakers

Associate Professor Aron Shlonsky is Associate Professor and Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare at the University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work and is the director of the Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit. Prior to his appointment at University of Toronto, spent a number of years as a child protective services worker, sexual abuse therapist, and substance abuse counselor in Los Angeles. His professional interests center largely on child welfare and include risk assessment, kinship foster care, and sibling relationships in out-of-home care. He also has an abiding interest in evidence-based practice and evaluation research. He is co-author of 'Child Welfare Research: Advances for Child Welfare Practice and Policy' (2008, Oxford University Press) and has authored and co-authored numerous manuscripts appearing in scholarly journals and books highlighting the use of actuarial tools in child welfare settings, the predictors and effects of sibling separation in foster care, issues surrounding kinship foster care, the implementation of subsidized legal guardianship for relative caregivers, and the teaching and implementation of evidence-based practice. Journal articles focus on child welfare program design, administration, and research.

Dr. Tim Moore is a Senior Research Fellow, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, based at the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. A trained teacher and psychologist, Tim conducts research and project work at CCCH aimed at improving early childhood services and regularly consults with state and federal governments and non-government organisations on best practice.

A frequent speaker at conferences and seminars, Tim is lead writer on many of CCCH's reports, conference papers and policy briefs and also develops training and resource packages for early childhood and family support services.

Tim has worked as an educational and developmental psychologist for over 30 years, both in Australia and England, in a variety of mainstream and specialist settings. In particular, he has had a long involvement in the development and delivery of early childhood intervention services for young children with developmental disabilities and their families.

Dr. Robyn Mildon is the Director of Knowledge Exchange at the Parenting Research Centre, an independent, non-profit research and development organisation based in Melbourne, Australia. Robyn's work focuses on two main areas: the use of innovative and effective knowledge translation and dissemination strategies aimed at improving the utilisation of evidence-based information and practice in parenting education, family support, and child welfare programs; and closing the gap between 'what we know' and 'what we do' by improving the science and practice of implementation in relation to the use of evidence-based practices and programs.

She is one of the Project Directors for a number of multi-year nationally funded projects which focus on improving the well-being of children and families with multiple and complex needs. Examples of recent projects include the development of tailored evidence based practice and service models along with the provision of evidence informed support for implementation of these in over 20 intensive family support service sites in urban and remote areas of the Northern Territory, Australia; Healthy Start – A national capacity building strategy for practitioners, policy makers and researchers supporting parents with learning difficulties and their children; and Parenting Young Children in Sweden – A controlled implementation trial of a parent education program for vulnerable families in three regions in Sweden.

Robyn has authored and co-authored numerous papers published in peer-reviewed journals and edited book chapters and presented at several national and international conferences including invited keynote presentations and invited training and other technical assistance.

Dr. Fiona Arney (A/Prof – Menzies School of Health Research - Child Protection Research Program) is the Head of the Child Protection Research Program at the Menzies School of Health Research. She has 14 years research experience in the fields of child and adolescent mental health, parenting, and child protection. This has included qualitative and quantitative research and evaluation expertise in programs for vulnerable children and their families, epidemiological studies of child and adolescent mental health and wellbeing, and comparative studies of measures of parenting behaviour.

Until February 2010, she was the Deputy Director of the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of South Australia. She has also been a member of research teams at the Victorian Parenting Centre (now the Parenting Research Centre) and the Women's and Children's Hospital in Adelaide. Dr Arney co-edited a recently published book *Working with Vulnerable Families: A Partnership Approach* with Professor Dorothy Scott.

We hope you can join us at this event on **Wednesday 16th November, 2011** at the **Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Wharf.**

If you would like to register for this event, please fill in the attached registration form and return via email, mail or fax to (03) 9345 5892.

Best Wishes,



Frank Oberklaid
Director
Centre for Community Child Health



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Date: Wednesday 16th November, 2011
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Time: 9.30am – 1.30pm (Registration from 9.00am)

Seminar Agenda

9.00AM TO 9.30AM	Registration
9.30AM TO 9.45AM	Welcome <i>Associate Professor Jill Sewell, Deputy Director, Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic.</i>
9.45AM TO 10.30AM	<i>Do we respond to child and family vulnerability as it emerges or target our services based on risk: an evidence-based approach</i> <i>Aron Shlonsky, Associate Professor, University of Toronto, Factor-Inwentash Chair in Child Welfare, Director, Bell Canada Child Welfare Research Unit, Canada.</i>
10.30AM TO 11.15AM	<i>Supporting and engaging vulnerable children and their families: the evidence about what to deliver and how to deliver it</i> <i>Dr Tim Moore, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, Melbourne, Vic.</i>
11.15AM TO 11.45AM	Morning tea
11.45AM TO 12.25PM	<i>Applying implementation science to developing interventions for vulnerable children and their families</i> <i>Dr Robyn Mildon, Director Knowledge Exchange, Parenting Research Centre, Vic</i>
12.25AM TO 1.00 PM	<i>Preventing child abuse and neglect: what do we know (service priorities), what do we need to know (research priorities)?</i> <i>Associate Professor Fiona Arney, Child Protection Research Program, Menzies School of Health Research, NT</i>
1.00PM TO 1.30PM	<i>Panel forum: How can we close the gap between what we know and what we do (policy priorities)?</i> <i>Chair: Associate Professor Jill Sewell, Deputy Director, Centre for Community Child Health, The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic. All speakers</i>
1.30PM	Close



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Registration Form

Please fax registration form to 03 9345 5892 or email to catherine.archer@rch.org.au
Registration is required by Wednesday 9th November, 2011.

Registration Details

Name _____ Position/Role _____

Email address (Required) _____

Organisation _____

Address _____

Suburb _____ State _____ Post/code _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Special Dietary requirements _____

Payment Details

Cost: \$125.00 incl. GST (Cancellation Policy: Full fee payable if less than 1 weeks notice given)

Payment Details: Credit Card Cheque (please make payable to **Murdoch Childrens Research Institute**)

Card type Mastercard Visa **Amount \$** _____

Card Number _____ **Expiry date** _____ / _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

Mail to:

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Centre for Community Child Health
The Royal Children's Hospital
Flemington Road
PARKVILLE VIC 3052

Fax to:

(03) 9345 5892

Email to:

catherine.archer@rch.org.au

For enquires please phone (03) 9345 6337

NB- Fees will be refunded only if participants withdraw one week prior to commencement of a seminar. After this date, no refund will be made.

*This registration form becomes a tax invoice upon receipt of payment
Murdoch Childrens Research Institute, ABN 21 006 566 972*