



The Society of Professional Social Workers
and
The APS College of Community Psychologists

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Child Abuse but were Afraid to Ask
Monday, November 26, 2012

Notre Dame Building 21, Room 102; Henry St, Fremantle (please see attached map for directions)

This Workshop accrues

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

13 SPSW CPE Points

A Professional Development Day

6 1/2 APS Points

for Community Psychologists, Social Workers and other Human Service Professionals

Presented by Dr. Barbara Meddin, B.A., M.S.W., Ph.D., F.S.P.S.W.

Do you

- Work or plan to work in an agency with children and their families or work/ plan to work in private practice where there are children and young people or families with children?
- know what child abuse is and what it isn't?
- feel confident you would know what to do if you were worried that a child or young person had been harmed or wasn't safe in their family?
- understand what WA's mandatory reporting legislation means to you as a professional, worker or a volunteer?
- appreciate what will happen in terms of confidentiality if you report your concerns?
- know if you will be professionally liable if it turns out it's not child abuse?

If you can't answer yes to all of the above, then this workshop is for you!

This one day workshop is aimed at helping people who work or plan to work with children and young people and their families gain an understanding of what is child abuse and neglect and what it isn't. It will also assist participants to understand what their obligations are when there is concern about the safety and well being of a child. It will also provide you with the opportunity to discuss dilemmas you may face when you have concerns about a specific child/young person. The workshop will also help you understand what legal rights and protections you have when you are concerned about a child or young person.

By the end of the workshop participants will have developed an understanding of:

- What is and isn't Child Abuse and Neglect?
- What are some of the signs that suggest a child/young person has been harmed or is at risk of harm?
- What should they do if they suspect a child/young person has been harmed or at risk of harm?
- What will happen to the professional/worker/volunteer's relationship with that child/young person or with their relationship with the child's parents if they tell DCP or the police about their concerns?
- Know if they are required to report child abuse now that mandatory reporting has come to WA and in respect to the proposed changes to mandatory reporting
- What about confidentiality? What is it, whose is it?
- What will happen if a child protection agency or the police are contacted

About the trainer

Dr. Barbara Meddin is a professional social worker who holds a Bachelor of Sociology, a Masters of Social Work, and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Political Science (Politics), all from universities in the USA

Prior to leaving government, Dr. Meddin was the Senior Professional Officer, Social Work (Principal Social Worker) for the Department for Child Protection. She originally came to Western Australia in the 1980's to assist WA to set up its state wide child protection service.

Dr Meddin has a long and diverse career as a social worker working in the fields of child protection, domestic violence, corrections, education, and youth/juvenile services. She has worked extensively in respect to services to men, women and children and to Indigenous people. She has also been an expert witness in the Family Court, the Children's Court and the Coroner's Court.

Dr. Meddin's reputation as a trainer is recognized throughout Western Australia where she has regularly presenting training workshops to both government and non government agencies. . She is widely published both in Australia and overseas in the human services field.