



POSITIVE INTERACTION

Conflict Transformation through Group Conferencing

Three-day Professional Development Training

Presenters: Dr David Moore and Dr Alikki Vernon

Academic Centre: University College

Melbourne University

Dates: Wednesday 19th – Friday 21st May 2021

Time: 9:30am – 5:00pm each day

This workshop provides 3 days of training for professionals who are practising, or interested to practise, in the field of conflict transformation. The training is also valuable for managers responsible for program and policy development. The workshop focuses on the several formats of the **Group Conferencing** process, which is used to address unresolved conflict &/or complex issues affecting a group of people, or to proactively promote conflict resilience. Workshop participants will:

- examine methods for dealing with challenging situations in justice, health and education systems, and in families, workplaces, residential &/or other communities;
- identify situations that can be addressed effectively using dispute handling or conflict management techniques; &
- practise facilitation techniques to acquire skills that can be applied in many areas of professional practice.

This training meets Best Practice Standards developed by the Australian Association of Restorative Justice (AARJ) for Group Conference facilitation.

Workshop fee: \$1 500 for three days.

All days are fully catered.

Reduced rates are available for group bookings.

For further information, and registration and payment details, please contact Alikki Vernon: alikki@alikkiv.com.au



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FEEDBACK FROM RECENT PARTICIPANTS

"Anyone whose job is to assist people to make changes in their lives would benefit from this training, as the Group Conferencing principles, process and the skills that are applied are adaptable and transferrable in many different settings. This training demonstrated really well how a practitioner can most effectively facilitate and empower the change process in an individual and their communities just by embedding restorative approaches in their interactions with them."

Kwan Nga Li, Justice Officer, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, Collingwood

"You come away with both a solid understanding of the theory underpinning restorative approaches, practical experience in convening and an understanding of how restorative approaches can be applied in a wide range of settings."

Nicola Flook, Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Jesuit Social Services, Northern Territory

"I like the model of 'explain, demonstrate, practice' with audio visual support...real time examples...hearing about others' experiences...and the facilitators co-presenting - which made great use of their diverse ranges of skills and knowledge. I did love the theory and references, and this will inform my usual ADR practice."

Carol Bowen, Acting Assistant Director, Directorate of Complaints & Resolution: Department of Defence

"The training was really well rounded and provided good insight into group conferencing and restorative justice as a whole. There was a balanced mix between group, presentation and interactive teaching methods which kept things varied and engaging... One of my projects is to develop a project outline for how an Aboriginal specific group conferencing model could work, this [training] provided me with a deeper understanding and experience [of how]. The variety of skills and knowledge that you walk away with, and that understanding the workings of group conferencing and restorative justice extends far beyond what you may think and has uses in your own personal life and relationships."

Sam Nolan, Executive Officer, [Victorian] Eastern Metropolitan Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee

"Learning about group conferencing in formats other than for youth justice [was really useful]. I have additional skills to facilitate positive outcomes [&]...the ability to manage conflictual situations through good communications and a clear framework that creates a high chance of success."

Lewis Burnside, Manager: PIVOT Youth Crime Prevention Partnership

"The poignancy and power of Group Conferencing (GC) really resonated with me. I can really see just what a powerful tool GC is in resolving conflict and restoring right relationships... The training made a significant impact on how I might work. I would absolutely recommend the facilitators' skill, knowledge, training ability and experience. Love the experiential component and the underpinning principles of working this way."

Jo Howard: Churchill Fellow & pioneer of Victoria's Step-Up Adolescent Family Violence Intervention Programs

"The training is very informative, interactive, and well-facilitated. I enjoyed all aspects of it."

Lionel Dukakis, Program Manager: Ngarra Jarranounith Place, Koori Men's Behavioural Change Program

"If you have an interest in Group Conferencing or in transforming conflict or supporting people to move forward from a family, group or community breakdown, this training would be extremely useful, in terms of having a model that can be learned and applied and is shown to be effective. Great presenters; very focused training; no down time. Concrete, practical, directly relevant."

Charmaine Farrell, Manager: Northern Centre Against Sexual Assault



"In the short term it has been a real boost to my confidence in the utility of talking and listening through issues in a structured way to resolve issues. I really liked the juxtaposition of theory and demonstration via role plays...and the highly sensitive way in which [the workshop] was designed and run.

Sato Juniper, Associate Director, Graduate Research, University of Western Australia

"The [workshop provided] an interactive approach and ability to learn with other participants and from the wealth of knowledge from the facilitators. [I am] already...using the practical tips and learnings..."

Anita Cox, Human Resources Manager, Worawa Aboriginal College

"The three-day course took me on a journey through emotion, understanding and insight. The approach of 'practice by doing' is certainly a great one. You sit observing others and listening to the great coaches, David and Alikki. But it is actually when you have a go yourself - which is what this course enables you to do (and as I did in the role of convener in a scenario of a conference with multiple parties - that you truly learn and adjust your approach. Conferencing is different to mediation and mediation is different to negotiation. All have a logic and use for different situations...I would highly recommend the course to others."

Dr Liz Curran, Senior Lecturer, Legal Workshop and solicitor: Australian National University

"I found the training extremely useful and fun. Until I facilitated a session during the training I had been unaware of the power of the group process to bring about change in such a decisive manner. I would recommend this training to anyone thinking about running group sessions, regardless of the way they are described."

Carolyn Worth, Manager, South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault

"I believe the values, theories and skills required for group conferencing are essential for social work practice."

Dr Susie Costello, Program Director Master of Social Work: RMIT University, Melbourne

"The training is an excellent balance of reinforcing the detail [of a restorative process] whilst promoting flexibility. The training also provided an excellent balance between theory and practice."

Keith Castle, Group Conferencing Convenor, Jesuit Social Services, Alice Springs

"Well balanced training. Paradigm shifting. I really enjoyed and valued the practical focus of the workshop. I plan to set up a program using this approach. I feel I have a deeper understanding. Such an interesting perspective to take back into one's engagement with the world."

Alistair Nairn, Community Advisor: Environment Protection Authority Victoria

"Conferencing offers exciting opportunities for the transformation of workplace conflict by bringing together the people involved in, and impacted by, conflict to address and resolve the issues. I found the workshop challenging, thought-provoking and inspiring. The trainers are skilled and engaging, and the training content is an effective balance of theory and practice."

Meriel O'Sullivan, REDD HR/IR Consultancy