



Hosted by the UTS Crime & Security Science Research Group

Setting Relations Right:

Transforming conflict into cooperation through group conferencing

Three-day Professional Development Workshop

Presenters: Dr David Moore and Dr Alikki Vernon

University of Technology Sydney: Building 10

Dates: Tuesday 18th – Thursday 20th April 2023

Time: 9:00am – 5:00pm each day

This workshop provides 3 days of learning the practical theory of facilitating group conferences, as part of a system of restorative practices and relationship management. The workshop is relevant for facilitators, managers, policy-makers, and evaluators. Workshop participants will:

- examine techniques of dispute-handling and conflict management to address challenging situations in justice, health and education systems, and in families, workplaces, residential &/or other communities;
- practise facilitation techniques that can be applied across this wide range of situations;
- distinguish several formats of the group conferencing process and related skills for addressing complex issues, &/or promoting conflict resilience;
- identify situations that can be addressed effectively using these techniques & processes;
- understand how these techniques support broader systems of relationship management.

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

Workshop fee: \$1,650.00 (incl GST) 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

FEEDBACK FROM RECENT PARTICIPANTS

"The three-days took me on a journey through emotion, understanding and insight. 'Practice by doing' is certainly a great approach. You observe others and listen to the great coaches, David and Alikki, but it is actually when you have a go yourself that you truly learn and adjust your approach. Conferencing is different to mediation & mediation is different to negotiation. All have a logic and use for different situations... I would highly recommend this course."

Associate Prof Liz Curran, Nottingham Trent University Law School

"The interactive [workshop provided] an opportunity 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 Victoria

"Learning about group conferencing in formats in addition to youth justice [was really useful]. I have additional skills to facilitate positive outcomes [&] 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

"In the short term this has really boosted 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 management of a conflict is a significant determinant of long term harm to the wellbeing of the individuals and the function of an organization. The workshop is an optimal mix of theory and practice of those skills necessary to facilitate conversations where the group benefits by determining their own way through the conflict challenge they face."

James Francis, Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Australian Defence Force

"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

"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

"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 – and love the experiential component and the underpinning principles of working this way."

Jo Howard: Churchill Fellow, Step-Up Adolescent Family Violence Intervention Programs

"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