

# POSITIVE INTERACTION

## **Setting Relations Right:**

**transforming conflict into cooperation through group conferencing**

**Three-day Professional Development Workshop**

**Presenters: Dr David Moore and Dr Alikki Vernon**

**Seminar Centre: University College**

**Melbourne University**

**Dates: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Time: 9:30am – 5:00pm each day**

This workshop provides 3 days of training on the practical theory of restorative practices and relationship management. The workshop is relevant for facilitators, managers, policy makers, and evaluators. Workshop participants will:

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

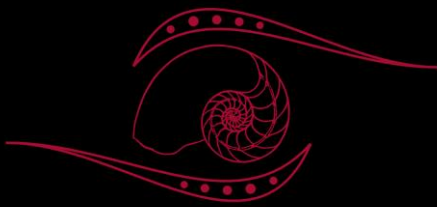
This training meets Best Practice Standards developed by the Australian Association of Restorative Justice (AARJ) for Group Conference facilitation.

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](mailto:alikki@alikkiv.com.au)



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## FEEDBACK FROM RECENT PARTICIPANTS

*“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**

*“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**

*“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 training is very informative, interactive, and well-facilitated. I enjoyed all aspects of it.”*

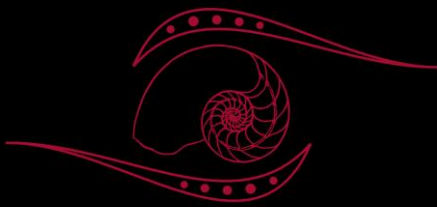
**Lionel Dukakis, Program Manager: Ngarra Jarranounith Place,  
Koori Men’s Behavioural Change Program**

*“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**



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*“How conflict is managed is a significant determinant of long-term harm to the wellbeing of the individuals and the function of an organisation. The workshop is an optimal mix of theory and of practising the skills to facilitate conversations where the group benefits by determining their own way through the conflict challenge they face. I have been able to inform the organisation on how to improve the ways we structure and facilitate group meetings to address poorly resolved issues and issues of common concern.”*

**James Francis, Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Australian Defence Force ADR Panel Member**

*“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**

*“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.*

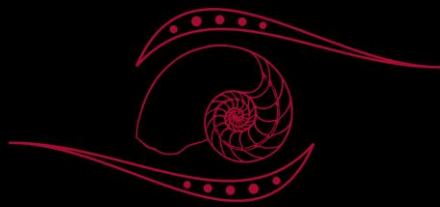
**Sato Juniper, Associate Director, Graduate Research, University of Western Australia**

*“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**

*“I would recommend restorative justice researchers to participate in this workshop because it helps us understand how restorative justice theory plays out in practice. Learning theories and practices of restorative justice through literature and through this workshop are two completely different experiences. I have found the latter more beneficial in the long-term: it gives many ideas about what is going on in the actual practice of restorative justice.”*

**Masahiro Suzuki PhD, Lecturer in Criminology, Central Queensland University**



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*“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. This course actually enables you then to have a go yourself - as I did in the role of convener in a scenario of a conference with multiple parties – and that is when 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 believe the values, theories and skills 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**

*“I found all parts of this training useful. Restorative practices will be particularly useful in setting relationships right within the workplace, down to our small team units. I am integrating these practices in my own teams, but also encouraging others in environmental management to attend this training, so that we can build up a community of practice, and help to solve ongoing environmental problems.”*

**Doug MacFarlane PhD, Environment NSW**

*“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**