**Restorative Facilitator Skills Practice Group**

***Would you like to connect with others who share a passion for restorative justice & restorative practices?***

***Are you interested in practicing the skills required to prepare and convene a Group Conference?***

If so, we invite you to join with colleagues, and look forward to hearing from you!

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Below is an outline of the RFSP Group functions, membership and various practicalities.

**Purpose**

The primary purpose of the RFSP Group is to provide group members with an opportunity to observe, practice and reflect on restorative group conference processes, generally via role-play.

In addition, the RFSP Group is a platform for:

* Informal discussions regarding restorative practice/justice topics
* Opportunities for feedback on restorative justice matters that group members are involved with (subject to confidentiality requirements)
* Development of partnership links between restorative justice practitioners
* Peer support for the purpose of the AARJ accreditation process
* Opportunities to meet and engage with others who share an interest in the field

At the end of each year, a member survey is sent out, providing opportunity to provide feedback and to suggest additional topics of interest for the following year.

**Membership**

The RFSP Group is open to any member of the Australian Association of Restorative Justice (AARJ) with an interest in restorative justice and restorative practices. It is, however, recommended that participants have completed an introductory course in restorative practices, for example the 3-day 'Transforming Group Conflict through Group Conferencing' training offered by the AARJ.

**Meetings**

Group meetings currently take place every 6 weeks. An annual timetable is set at the beginning of each year and shared with group members.

We alternate between meeting on a Wednesday and Thursday evening. We generally alternate between online and in-person meetings. Online meetings run from 6-7:30pm, in-person meetings run from 6-8pm (Melbourne Time). We can accommodate online participation during our in-person meetings for those who cannot attend in person.

We meet over dinner for our final meeting in the year.

We endeavour to meet in a central location that is convenient for as many group members as possible when in-person meetings are held.

**Group Conference Role Plays**

AARJ have generously provided several scripts for the group to use for the purpose of role-plays. We may also invite group members from time to time to script group conference practice materials, based on case studies that they have been involved in.

We will aim to focus on different practice areas across practice sessions, to ensure breadth and relevance to group members. Roles will be rotated within the process, to allow each participant an opportunity to experience sitting as a conference member, convenor/co-convenor and observer over time.

Please note that convenor roles will only be offered to group members who have completed a group conference convenor training or have professional experience as a convenor.

Group members are asked to exercise professional discretion when offering peer support/reflection, to ensure a positive learning experience for all, and to keep feedback given to other group members confidential outside of the group.

We expect that the process of conducting the group conference practice sessions will evolve over time and welcome feedback along the way.

**Communications**

The primary platform for group communications is email.

**Group Participation & Decision Making**

The RFSP Group is currently being coordinated primarily by Lena Lettau, with input from AARJ and group members.

Whilst the group is informal, key group decisions will be made, where practicable, with input from group members. If a group member has any feedback, concerns or interest in assisting with the management of the group, please contact Lena.

**Enquiries**

Please direct all enquiries about the group to Lena Lettau.

Email: [LenaLettau@gmail.com](mailto:LenaLettau@gmail.com)

Mobile: 0417 101 123