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Setting Relations Right:

transforming conflict into cooperation through group conferencing

Three-day Professional Development Workshop

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

Leitch Academic Centre: University College
Melbourne University

Dates: Wednesday 21st – Friday 23rd April 2027

Time: 9:30am – 5:00pm each day

This workshop provides 3 days of training on restorative practice 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 family-, workplace-, 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 processes and techniques can support broader systems of relationship management.

All participants will receive a copy of *Setting Relations Right in Restorative Practice*.
[This 2024 publication is the foundational text in the series Contemporary Issues in Restorative Practice, and is consistent with the Best Practice Standards developed by the Australian Association of Restorative Justice (AARJ) for Group Conference facilitation.]

Workshop fee: $1,700 (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

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FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

"*I appreciated the overview of Affect Theory, and the interdisciplinary background to explain the* how *and* why *of restorative practice has made me rethink many of my approaches to this work. The training modelled what restorative practice can look like in any setting, and laid out clear guiding principles to equip participants to use the concepts confidently. I have no doubt that I will apply these incredibly simple and practical strategies in my work, but also in my life. Truly one of the best trainings I've ever attended*."
Ada Gregory, PhD: Associate Director, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University, USA

"This has truly been the best training I have participated in my professional development journey, and I am confident in its applicability across a wide range of contexts. The workshop and the book both stand out for their practical approach, clear explanations of key concepts, and use of real-world examples... [T]he book's accessible language indirectly speaks to universal themes that resonate deeply with traditional African values and indigenous conflict resolution practices. I wholeheartedly recommend both the book and the training."
Chuol G. Puot: Manager, Multicultural Strategy, Policy, and Practice, Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety

"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

"This Setting Relations Right training contributed significantly to my understanding of […] Group Conferencing work. It improved my knowledge and skill level to be able to confidently step into the Restorative Practitioner space. I would definitely recommend this training to others."
Andrew Ho: Restorative Practitioner, Jesuit Social Services, Victoria

"A great training that can be applied to many different genres and fields of work. It is particularly helpful in breaking down the why's behind conflict or harm and putting forward a clear structured process to set relations right. [The training] will assist me… to expand the way I work with clients and to eventually offer a range of processes that might more closely suit the needs of each situation."
Stella Griffiths: Appropriate Dispute Resolution Officer, Neighbourhood Justice Centre, Collingwood, Victoria

"I would definitely recommend this workshop to anyone working in the social services sector. I would emphasise the skill of changing conflict into cooperation. This training will enable me to work with families in a very different way. The skills I have learnt will create opportunities for families to participate in a process that enables them to be heard and to create a journey of recovery."
Rose Solomon: Policy and Continuous Improvement Leader, Boorndawan William Aboriginal Healing Service

"*This training will fine tune how you engage with your clients, colleagues, and others - not only in the workplace but out in the community as well*."
Marie Pewhairangi: Team Leader Neighbourhood Hubs, Wyndham

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"This workshop will help to deepen understanding of restorative frameworks and processes, as well as give some practical knowledge and skills to begin the journey in Restorative Conference facilitation."
Murray Hodge-Neill, Positive Behaviour for Learning Team, Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning: ACT Education Directorate

"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 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

"You come away with 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

"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, Melbourne

"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

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"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 would emphasise the utility of restorative practices and how they can benefit everyone, and the work that we do in research. I would also emphasise that this training is the one to do because of the trainers [who] both hold an immense wealth of knowledge and experience [and] leave participants with a sense of optimism and motivation. It's worth noting that three whole days of training is quite a lot under usual circumstances, with participants fading out as we get to the end of the day, but that didn't happen in [this] training. […] I actually wanted more."
Stephanie Price, PhD: Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit, University of the Sunshine Coast

"*The workshop inspired and motivated me to do more restorative practices, which are super effective in working with conflicts*."
Indigo Nguyen: SV Support/Education, Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivor Support Centre (BRISSC)

"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

"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 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 highly recommend the course."
Liz Curran: Associate Professor, University of Nottingham Law School, Author of *Better Law for a Better World*

"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 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, Loughborough University, UK



"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

"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 that 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, ADR Panel Member, Australian Defence Force

"I will certainly continue to find opportunities to practice after the workshop as it is comprehensive and inspiring. The depth of knowledge and practice shared highlighted the great possibility of these processes to not only repair harm but to contribute to a paradigm shift in how positive relationships develop in the world through opportunities to educate and inspire human potential in a new relational way."
Richard de Martin: Restorative Practice Coordinator, NED Foundation