

## Professional Development Seminars

### Presenter Profiles

#### **Gail Westcott**

Gail has worked as a senior manager for RA NSW for more than 10 years, she is a qualified psychologist, working as a therapist with couples and families for more than 20 years. Her experience in supervision and training clinicians within the Australian Institute for Relationship Studies has led her interest in developing innovative models and policies for services. Responsibilities within her current role drive collaborations with many partner organisations & with the RA team nationally, and create services that are relevant and responsive to the changing needs of Australia's diverse population groups including children. She has written & presented papers and workshops to professionals and students on a range of topics including couple and family therapy, relationship support for employees in companies, gender issues in relationships, understanding the self, systemic family practice, sexuality & relationships and critical incident responses.

#### **Jon Graham**

Jon has been involved in the provision of mediator training and supervision with Relationships Australia since 1996 and was the manager of the Relationships Australia Mediation Service for five years. A solicitor and counsellor/mediator, Jon has particular experience in the application of communication and conflict theory to workplace/community management disputes and family disputes. Jon is a lecturer in the mediation training program. Jon has facilitated many 100s of hours of work place grievances, and in team recovery meetings. Jon regularly mediates disputes, and provides clinical supervision and coaching for mediators. Jon has worked in the community sector of over 16 years and currently works as a consultant in communication.

#### **Professor Bob Pease**

Professor Bob Pease is the Chair of Social Work and the Coordinator of the Bachelor of Social Work in the School of Health and Social Development. His main research and teaching areas are Critical Social Work, Self and Society and Men and Masculinities. He is particularly interested in the synergy between critical theory and progressive forms of postmodernism and he has contributed to the project of developing a postmodern critical social work practice. He has published over 60 refereed journal articles and book chapters and is author of *Men and Sexual Politics: A Profeminist Approach* (Dulwich 1997), *Recreating Men: Postmodern Masculinity Politics* (Sage 2000) and *Men and Gender Relations* (Tertiary Press 2002) and co-editor of *Transforming Social Work Practice: Postmodern Critical Perspectives* (Allen and Unwin 1997), *Working With Men in the Human Services* (Allen and Unwin 2001); *A Man's World? Changing Men's Practices in a Globalized World* (Zed 2001) and *Critical Social Work* (Allen and Unwin 2003), *International Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities* (Routledge 2007)

#### **Anne Wyatt**

Anne holds Master and Doctorate degrees in the area of occupational health and safety and a Graduate Diploma in Criminology from The University of Sydney. She is a Visiting Fellow at the School of Safety Science, Faculty of Science, UNSW. She has over 27 years of experience in the occupational health and safety field. For further information, please consult websites at <http://www.trainsafe.com.au> and <http://www.beyondbullying.com.au>

#### **Gary Hodson**

**Gary has worked as the Manager of the South East Region of R.A. for the last 3 years. Previous to that Gary has worked in grief counselling, individual, oncology and palliative care counselling. Gary also has experience in Ministry as Priest & North Coast Ambulance Chaplain, Hospital & Industrial Chaplain, HIV Aids Field Education, Men's Work & Men's Group Work, Banking, Staff**

supervision and Administration. Gary has actively participated in Men's work since the early 1980's. He is also a member of C.A.P.A. & NALAG.

#### **Elisabeth Shaw**

Elisabeth is an individual, couple and family therapist, supervisor and trainer in private practice in Drummoyne, NSW. Previously a Director of Relationships Australia (NSW), she has presented and published papers over many years focused on the couple bond, intimacy and sexuality, violence, working with men in therapy, and areas of supervision practice. She has considerable experience as a trainer of clinical practitioners, and supervises and consults extensively with individuals and teams from nursing and welfare to psychotherapy and the corporate sector, servicing clients with very diverse presenting problems and needs. She is the co-editor (with Jim Crawley) of "Couple Therapy in Australia; Issues Emerging from Practice" (Psychoz Publications) .

#### **Dr Peter O'Brien**

Peter has mediated in over 500 disputes in family, neighbourhood, commercial, workplace, or financial conflict. Peter is also a skilled conciliator, trainer and facilitator. Peter mediates for the Relationships Australia Mediation Service, the Community Justice Centres, the Small Claims Division of several District Courts and in private practice. Peter also conducts conciliations for the Health Conciliation Registry. Peter has been an academic and is consultant to business, assisting in strategic planning and resource development for commercial organisations. Peter has been honoured by being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

#### **Dr Carmel Flaskas**

**Carmel Flaskas** is a social worker and family therapist, and Senior Lecturer in the UNSW School of Social Sciences and International Studies. She convenes the UNSW Master of Couple and Family Therapy program, which is offered in partnership with AIRS. Carmel has published a number of books and articles on the therapeutic relationship, on psychoanalytic ideas in the systemic context, and on knowledge in family therapy. In 2006, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Tavistock Clinic in conjunction with the University of East London for her contributions to systemic psychotherapy, and in 2005 she received the ANZJFT award for Distinguished Contributions to Australian Family Therapy. She continues to supervise and see clients in her private practice.

#### **Wayne Nugent**

I have been working, exclusively, in mediation and conflict management for seven years, both with the Community Justice Centres and RA (RA just over 5 years now). Since July 2006 I have been working as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner at the Penrith FRC. Through CJsCs I worked in the courts mediating Civil Claims and AVO's as well as mediating neighbourhood disputes, disputes in large organisations such as schools and local government, and as a mentor. I have a Master of Legal Studies - Dispute Resolution (UWS), a Graduate Certificate Alternative Dispute Resolution (CSU) and a Cert IV Workplace Training and Assessment. I have also studied business management, writing and producing for electronic and print media, and photography. In my past life I was a writer and creative director in Advertising and PR (15 years) - I've had articles published in the National Times and The Sydney Morning Herald as well as having a regular column in Australian Photography (3years) - I also owned and ran a plumbing business with 20 employees.

#### **Ron Simpson**

Mediation trained and practiced with Community Justice Centre 2001

Certificates in Counselling and Communication

Conference convenor re Youth Justice conferencing 2003

Worked in various forms of community work from youth/community housing to support services for men, and fathers in separated relationships since 1983

#### **Rick Greene**

**Rick is the Manager for Mediation Services at Relationships Australia (NSW). RA (NSW) does about 900 mediation sessions per year and maintains a panel of 18 accredited family law mediators and workplace dispute facilitators. RA also manages the mediation programs at Penrith FRC, North Ryde FRC, Blacktown FRC and soon to be opened Sydney, Brookvale and Bathurst FRC's. Rick practiced law in the U.S. and trained as a mediator at the University of Maine and the Harvard Program on Negotiation before making the leap from practicing law to full-time mediation and from the U.S. to Australia. He has received substantial training in Bush and Folger's Transformative Mediation model and for several years he worked with a family mediation program in the U.S. providing co-mediation in the transformative mode.**