

Children at RISK

STEPS TOWARD SECURE ATTACHMENT AND HEALING

Chronic stress in the family can have many and varied effects on children. Children of families affected by poverty, mental health issues, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and traumatic separations are particularly at risk of developing insecure attachment and trauma related problems.

Parents and carers of these hurt children often struggle to understand the child's behaviour and feel confused and exhausted trying to parent them. Likewise, professionals assisting these families often feel ineffective in the help they provide.

This 1 day workshop is aimed at human and health service practitioners who work with children and families at risk.

TOPICS COVERED:

- An introduction to attachment theory and the benefits of secure attachment in child development
- How disrupted attachment and trauma affects the child's brain development and subsequent behaviour, emotions and beliefs
- How practitioners can assist carers develop the knowledge and reflective capabilities to sensitively parent their child and promote a secure family environment
- The practitioners use of self in facilitating a reflective worker-carer-child system

THIS WORKSHOP WILL SUPPORT YOU TO:

- Feel more competent in working with complex families
- Increase your knowledge of the special needs of hurt children and appreciate the different parenting strategies required
- Further reflect on your influence in the families you work with.

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Steve has worked in the private sector and for various NGO's, providing: addiction rehabilitation; individual, relationship and family counselling; has specialised in the treatment of adolescents with mental health and behavioural disorders, and their families; and for the last few years with carers and children within the child protection system.

Steve currently works at The Family Centre, Tweed Heads South, as a family support worker and facilitates courses on parenting, male/family violence prevention and provides professional training. He also has a private practice offering individual, child/youth, couple and family counselling, and professional supervision. Steve is a clinical member of the Queensland Association of Family Therapy and is on the PACFA National Register of Psychotherapists and Counsellors.