Two Day Specialist Workshop for the frontline Child Protection Practitioners: Self Reflection; Emotional Wellbeing and Capacity Building

Protecting children from harm, mistreatment and even death has become a long-standing matter of global significance with most western democracies struggling to establish policy and practice approaches that result in decreased maltreatment rates. There are also growing concerns internationally regarding the mental health and professional developmental needs of frontline child protection practitioners in the context of escalating service demands. This intensive specialist training builds upon recent qualitative research (Khan et al., 2018) in Australia, which studies the scope of a family empowerment centred approach in child protection practice. The research articulates a link between the process of building family empowerment focused practice and empowerment needs of the frontline practitioners amid broader environment like team culture and system. The training module has been successfully tested following running of the recent one-day workshops in Victoria amid positive feedback and the expressed desire by the attendee child protection practitioners and managers for expanding its scope. The teaching process will be delivered through several psycho-social inventories (as mostly designed by the author) under motivational interviewing framework to facilitate awareness and self-reflection on developmental (professional and emotional) needs of the participants and ways forward.

Participants: This unique workshop is suitable for current or aspiring child protection practitioners in different areas like; intake, investigation and assessment, case management, foster and kinship care. Practitioners with tertiary qualifications in community-based family support services can also benefit to self and later cascading their team members.

Expected outcome: The process will offer the participants tools on how to think in-depth on developmental needs against impact of occupational and related emotional challenges. It is expected that the sessions will not only build new insight into empowerment needs of the practitioners but add fresh perspectives into child protection service development. More specifically, the participants are expected to gain knowledge and skills on:

- Outcome of contemporary research, statutory reports and cutting-edge literature on challenges and opportunities in child protection practice development.
- Practitioners’ awareness of self-wellbeing and re-connection with personal self as ways to build relationship-based practice.
- Family empowerment centred practice development informed by compassion, compatibility and caring values.
- Practical processes of working with vulnerable and complex families embedded in family empowerment.

About the Presenter:

Dr. Abul Khan. Abul is a clinical social worker with over 22 years practice, teaching and research experiences internationally in the areas of alcohol and other drugs, rural community development, child protection and child and adolescent mental health. He has taught graduate students in sociology, social work and medical sciences, as well as undertaken leadership capacity building training camps in remote rural settings. Abul has undertaken extensive parenting assessment work for a specialist child protection assessment team (i.e. NSPCC) in the UK. He has completed master level research on an international comparative study, ‘substance abuse management between India and UK’ at Queens’ University Belfast. He has also recently completed his PhD in Social Work at James Cook University, Townsville on, “Re-visioning child protection management embedded in family empowerment”, which offered a new perspective in the ongoing debate on impact of current risk averse child protection practice culture. He is passionate about his advocacy for capacity building of frontline practitioners as prerequisite for introducing family empowerment focused practice in public child protection system. In cascading the outcome of his research in the community, Abul has conducted intensive professional development workshops and upskilled 50 professionals (including 40 professionals from statutory child protection services) in 2018-19. He has published papers in the areas of mental health and child protection. Abul is a team senior in public mental health services and adjunct senior lecturer in Monash University, Melbourne.

Date: 04/07/19 to 05/07/2019 9:00 am to 4.30 pm(Each day)
Venue: CBD Melbourne (TBC)
Total seat: 25 participants only. To be admitted on first come first serve basis

Registration for Dr Abul Khan Workshop Melbourne 04 and 05 July 2019

(Please email below personal details while registering for the programme)

First Name: .............................................Surname: .................................................................

Organisation: .................................................................................................................................

Position/Title: .................................................................................................................................

Address: .................................................................................................Post Code...........................

Email: ............................................................................................................ Phone: .........................

Special Dietary requirement: ...........................................................................................................

Fees: AU $300/participant. Early bird: $ 250 if registered by 31 May 2019. AASW member (Discount) $ 275

(Cancellation policy: Refunds only issued if you cancel before 21/06/19. Refunds will not be issued if you do not
attend the event on the schedule date/s)

Direct Deposit:

Account Name: Abul Khan
BSB Number: 06 4801
Account Number: 1018 3894
Reference: 2DWKSP + Initial & Surname

Cheque: Payable to Abul Khan

Address: 8 Onyx Crescent, Officer, Vic 3809

Course Enquiry: Dr Abul Khan

Email: abul.khan@my.jcu.edu.au