

Multidisciplinary Collaborative Practice Working Group Pre-Congress

Sunday 23 August 1.30pm-5.30pm

Sofitel on Collins, Melbourne (Fitzroy Room)

Workshop purpose

The mission of the Multidisciplinary Responses Working Group is to strengthen multidisciplinary approaches to preventing and responding to child abuse by fostering collaboration across disciplines, sectors, regions and countries. Through sharing evidence, practice innovations and lived experience, the Working Group aims to identify effective models of multidisciplinary practice and support their adaptation across diverse contexts. Our shared goal is to improve outcomes for children and families, regardless of geographic location or available resources.

This workshop will explore multidisciplinary approaches across three interconnected areas:

- International multidisciplinary response models for child abuse.
- Multidisciplinary collaboration in court processes.
- Supporting children with disability and parents with disability through multidisciplinary responses across the child protection continuum.

Workshop Agenda

Time	Session
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12:30–13:30	Lunch
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13:30–13:40	Acknowledgement of Country, welcome and workshop overview – Sarah Wise and Diahann Gordon Harrison (Co-Chairs)
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Panel Session 1: International Multidisciplinary Response Models (90 minutes)

Chair: James Herbert

Time	Activity
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13:40–13:50	Welcome, introductions and framing – James Herbert
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13:50–14:05	Barnahus European Evaluation Framework Project – James Herbert & Rachael Tindal
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14:05–14:15	Cross-country comparison: Barnahus in Finland – Sini Stolt & Miia Ståhlberg
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14:15–14:25	Cross-country comparison: United States Child Advocacy Centers – Lisa Jones & Jane Silovsky
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14:25–14:35	Cross-country comparison: Canadian Child and Youth Advocacy Centres – Jennifer McAlpine & Janine Elenko
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14:35–14:50	Cross-country comparison: Australian Multi-Agency Responses – Multi-Disciplinary Centres (Vic) and Multi-agency Investigation & Support Teams (WA) – Caroline Whitehouse & Kim Brooklyn
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14:50-15:15 Discussion and Q&A

15:15–15:30 Afternoon break

Panel Session 2: Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Court Processes (55 minutes)

Chair: Diahann Gordon Harrison

Time Allotted	Speaker/Presenter	Activity
15:30 – 15:35	Diahann Gordon Harrison	Welcome, Session Overview & Introductions
15:35 – 15:55	Nedra Shawler	Legal & Social Support: San Francisco Bay Area
15:55 – 16:15	Diahann Gordon Harrison	Perspectives from Jamaica: Transformational Awareness for Traditional Justice Sector Players
16:15 – 16:25		Audience Engagement and Q&A
16:25	Diahann Gordon Harrison	Closing

Panel Session 3: Supporting Children with Disability and Parents with Disability Through Multidisciplinary Responses Across the Child Protection Continuum (60 minutes)

Chair: Sarah Wise

Panel discussion questions

Shared Question A:

What does effective multidisciplinary collaboration look like in your area of practice, and what difference does it make for children with disability and parents with disability?

Shared Question B:

What are the biggest barriers to achieving multidisciplinary collaboration, and what needs to change?

Time	Activity
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16:25–16:40	Welcome, introductions and framing
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16:40–16:50	Supporting parents with disability involved with, or at risk of, child protection involvement using an MDT approach– Susan Collins
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16:50–17:00	Supporting children with disability in out-of-home care using an MDT approach – Terry Symonds
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- 17:00–17:10** Prevention and early intervention for children with disability from and MDT lens– Prue Walker
- 17:10–17:25** Moderated panel discussion and audience Q&A guided by Shared Questions A and B
- 17:25–17:30** Closing reflections and next steps – Sarah Wise and Diahann Gordon Harrison (Co-Chairs)