



PARENTING IMPERATIVES
new perspectives • new directions • new connections

**A National Parenting
Conference**

Adelaide Convention Centre
6-8 September 2004

SPEAKERS

Christine Puckering (UK) lectures in psychology at the University of Glasgow and is, among other things, Honorary Clinical Psychologist with the Greater Glasgow Health Board, international consultant to UNICEF, and on the editorial board of *Child Psychology and Psychiatry*. She has researched and published widely in the area of parenting, particularly parenting in economic adversity, and parenting when a parent suffers from mental illness.

Her parenting program "Mellow Parenting", a parenting intervention for high risk families, has been evaluated in a controlled study to show positive outcomes for children (including an increase in IQ) which are sustained over 1 year after the end of the program. This program is now extensively used for high risk families in UK and several other countries. It has been extended to working with fathers and couples, and working with fathers in prison.

Christine has also developed an observational coding scheme for parent-child interactions which is used in the context of child protection.

PROFESSOR JAKE M NAJMAN has a joint appointment as Director of the Queensland Alcohol and Drug Research and Education Centre, School Of Population Health; and Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Science, University Of Queensland.

Professor Najman has taught and researched in the field of social science and public health for the last 30 years. He has co-authored and co-edited six monographs and over 180 research papers. In 1981 he initiated the Mater-University of Queensland Study of Pregnancy and its outcomes (MUSP), a longitudinal, prospective study of 8556 mothers from early pregnancy with a 21-year follow up. This study examines factors predicting the health development and substance use behaviours of young adults.

Professor Najman is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. He serves on the NHMRC National Illicit Drug Strategy Research Committee.

BARBARA POCOCK has been teaching and researching for the past 15 years. Her main interests are in work, gender, unionism, and work and family. She has recently spend 14 months working for a federal politician, and over the five years 2003-2007 she will be researching the issues of work, community, households, and writing about these issues and about unionism. Her teaching has included gender and work, unionism, social science research and labour studies. She has been involved in unions since her working life began twenty years ago, which included work in the shearing sheds of New Zealand and Australia, the NSW public sector, the banking and the textiles clothing and footwear industries and as Workers Rights Officer at the United Trades and Labor Council of South Australia.

She contributes to research and public debate on work questions and has advised both federal and state governments on aspects of women's employment leadership and vocational education. She is author or editor of several books on these topics including: *Strife: Sex and Politics in Labour Unions*; *Changing Systems, Women, Work and TAFE*; and *Demanding Skill: Women and Technical Education in Australia*.

DOROTHY SCOTT, Associate Professor, OAM, PhD.

Professor Scott is Head of the School of Social Work, University of Melbourne. She is author of 40 refereed publications, predominantly on child welfare practice and policy. Most recent books include: "Beyond Child Rescue" (co-author Di O'Neil), Allen & Unwin; "Confronting Cruelty, Historical Perspectives on Child Protection" (co-author Dr Shurlee Swain), Melbourne University Press; and "Qualitative Research in Practice" (co-author Dr Yvonne Darlington) by Allen & Unwin.

DR MARGARET SIMMS, Programme Director for the School of International, cultural and community Studies at Edith Cowan University. The school offers a range of community work programmes for those who aim to work in the community with women, children and families, youth, the aged, people with disabilities and in general human service agencies. She teaches in Children and Family Studies where she has expertise in family support, difference and diversity and the ecology of development. She has a recent publication in family support (Designing Family Support Programmes, 2002) and in 1999 co-wrote a book with Teresa Hutchins on infant and toddler care (Program Planning for Infants and Toddlers). She has research interests in quality of service provision for children and their families, and is currently engaged in a large study of children's stress levels (measured using cortisol as a biomarker of stress) in child care and the relationship of stress to aspects of quality care. She has worked extensively in a range of community settings including family support, and the inclusion of children with additional needs into regular early childhood settings. She has three children and four grandchildren.

MEREDITH SMALL, Professor of Anthropology, Cornell University, who works in the field of ethno-paediatrics - the study of parents, children and child rearing across cultures. Professor Small asserts that our ideas about how we raise our children are culturally more than biologically or individually determined so that parenting styles are not "right" or "wrong" but appropriate or inappropriate for the culture the parents live in. Her insights are particularly relevant to parenting in a multicultural society. She is the author of the best selling book "Our Babies, Ourselves: How Biology and Culture Shape the Way We Parent".

DR MARGY WHALLEY Director of Research, Development and Training Pen Green Centre, Northhamptonshire, UK.

Margy Whalley has managed multi-disciplinary early years services in Brazil, Papua New Guinea and England.

She was the founding Head of the Pen Green Centre in the UK for Under 5's and their Families and has worked there for eighteen years. She undertook a secondment to the Open University where she wrote course materials for parents wanting to increase their knowledge and understanding of child development.

She was invited to be part of the Labour Party enquiry team into Under 5's education and care and was the Association of County Council's representative on the National Audit Commission concerned with children under 5.

Margy is currently Director of the Research, Development & Training Base at the Pen Green Centre and is involved in research, training and consultancy work in this country and in Europe.

Most recently she has been involved in the Early Excellence Centre programme and is on the board of the National Early Excellence Centre programme. Currently Margy is evaluating the Corby Sure Start programme, which is a Government initiative focusing on parents with children under 4 years.

Karen Martin Children's Ambassador, Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland.

I am a Noonuccal woman from North Stradbroke Island (south-east Qld) with ancestral connections to the Bidjara people of Carnarvon Gorge in Central Qld. I have taught in Aboriginal community managed kindergartens over 15 years in the Ipswich, Logan and Far North Queensland regions. I have also lectured in Aboriginal education and early childhood education with the Queensland University of Technology and more recently lectured in Indigenous Studies at James Cook University (Townsville). I have interspersed this work with curriculum development, policy writing and implementation and the development and delivery of cross-cultural awareness programs. I have also worked at a Ministerial Advisory level by consulting with Aboriginal groups and communities throughout Queensland to formulate advice for the Minister for Education, Qld. I am currently employed as the Children's Ambassador of C&K and working at strategic levels towards achieving its goals for early childhood education and completing Ph D by research to develop an Indigenist research framework based on Aboriginal worldviews, knowledges, beliefs and practices. I am a mother, aunt, sister and daughter and in my 'spare' time I rest, draw, paint and read.

Jane Doyle is a Clinical Psychologist who has recently been involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of a Western Australian targeted home visiting program. Jane is very interested in early health promotion and prevention, particularly in regards to parent-infant attachment. She has been responsible for providing training in early intervention strategies and ongoing support to enable workers to best meet the complex needs of families.
