

NZ Family Therapy Specialists presents ...

EXTENDING YOUR COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE WITH FAMILY AND WHANAU



A professional development workshop utilising live consultations and reflecting teams to extend your collaborative practice with clients and their family and whanau in Aotearoa New Zealand

“It is not only a matter of us being 'respectful'. It is more a matter of our clients experiencing our respect for them.” (Michael White)¹

The tide began turning in family therapy 2-3 decades ago; ebbing away from the original theories about ‘families as a system’ who may need help from outside experts when ‘symptomatic’. Since then, new approaches to working with family and whanau have been inspired by feminism, cultural renaissance and social constructionism, giving rise to, among others: narrative, dialogical, relationally conscious, solution-focused, social justice and collaborative practices. Despite this sea change, it seems to me that often what happens when working with family and whanau in Aotearoa NZ is influenced by the urge to ‘change’ or ‘fix’ a person, couple or their family and whanau relationships, to better conform with dominant norms in our society. By doing so, professionals risk perpetuating injustices against those with the least institutional power, namely, women, children, non-Europeans, LGBT, the poor, chronically sick, etc. These pitfalls might be avoided, and our highest respect for clients expressed, by extending our use of collaborative practices.

‘Ways of being collaborative’ will be learned during the workshop by demonstration, application and practice as we engage with one another. Much of this will be drawn together during the 2nd day when a client couple or family and whanau is scheduled to join us for a live consultation. The use of reflecting teams, reflexive interviewing, internalised other interviewing, consulting your consultants, insider witnessing, relational linguistic practices and therapeutic letter writing may feature in the workshop. Pre-workshop reading is provided and discussed.

This workshop is suitable for anyone interested in working therapeutically with people with the aim of opening spaces for new perspectives about themselves, their relationships and life. A wide range of professionals may benefit from participating, including those in health, welfare, community development, education, corrections and justice sectors. It is not necessary to be working specifically with families or whanau to attend.

There is the opportunity for workshop participants to invite members of a family or whanau they are working with to attend a session of the workshop to consult with both the workshop leader and workshop participants. Family and whanau members, workshop participants, referring agency and workshop leader enter written agreements that describe each other’s rights in relation to the family and whanau’s attendance. These agreements are sent to workshop participants prior to the workshop for forwarding to potential client families and whanau.

A one-hour post-workshop consultation via skype, phone or email is available to each workshop participant. Pre-workshop readings are distributed electronically.

Craig Whisker, MA (Applied) in Social Work, clinical member and accredited supervisor with the Australian Association of Family Therapy (AAPT), is a family therapist and certificated psychodramatist (AANZPA) in private practice in NZ. He is currently a doctoral candidate researching family therapy in NZ and has been providing family therapy training since 2003.

To register for this workshop, click on the ‘Register Here’ column opposite your preferred location. This will take you to an online registration page. See that page for details of the Cancellation and Refund Policy.

¹ As quoted in David Epston’s AAMFT conference plenary address, Indianapolis, 29/07/16

YOUR INVESTMENT: \$395.00 including GST, reading materials and post-workshop follow-up consultation

CB17	WAIKATO – BOP	7-8 Sept	Union Parish, 43 Queen St, Cambridge	Register Here
AK17/2	AUCKLAND	11-12 Sept	Mercy Centre, 104 The Drive, Epsom, Auckland	Register Here
WH17	NORTHLAND	14-15 Sept	Tohorā House, Whangarei Hospital Campus, Maunu Road, Whangarei	Register Here

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