



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ, Second Conference
16 and 17 November 2011, Ellerslie Event Centre





Growing Stronger Together

16 and 17 November 2011
Ellerslie Event Centre



Programme

Day 1 – Wednesday 16 November 2011

8.00am Registration

8.30am Welcome, Mihi mihi and Opening

Diane Vivian, National Convenor,
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren NZ
Jill Worrall, MC

8.50am Families are Forever
Evelyn Taumaunu

Evelyn will share how her experience, guidance and expertise that she has developed are the just rewards based on her own families principles of 'Families are Forever'.

9.20am When Emotional Age and Chronological Age are Different

Diane Levy

Diane will help us look at our (Grand) parenting goals and how to assess where our grandchildren are today on the *Four Strands of Development*. She will help us look at *The Trust Cycle* and consider how well – or otherwise – our grandchildren's *Emotional Tanks* work. Since many of us have had Kiwi upbringings and have been brought up to keep our feelings under tight control, Diane will show us a way of supporting our grandchildren's feelings without drowning in their sadness or hooking into their anger. She will help us stay alert to our grandchildren's emotional age rather than their chronological age.

10.20am Morning Tea

10.40am Understanding the Impact of Loss, Separation, Neglect and Abuse on Children's Attachment to their Caregivers

Judith Morris

The quality of care children receive from their caregivers, especially in their first two years of life, affects children's brain development and the way they develop attachment relationships with their caregivers. From these early experiences, children develop "inner working models"

of themselves and significant adults in their lives - which is the foundation for how they react to events that occur later in their childhood and how they respond to their current caregivers. Attachment theory provides a framework for understanding the problems and practical solutions for helping.

- Four patterns of attachment
- A two year process to form secure attachment
- Demonstration of loving and caring water
- Practical ways for caregivers to start repairing the child's capacity to form secure attachments

11.40am What is happening to Our Girls and Boys?

Maggie Hamilton

In a few short years our children have become vulnerable – not just teenagers – young boys and girls. They are facing challenges no other generation has faced. What a twelve-year-old experienced at seven, is not what a seven-year-old is now struggling with. This is why many of the signposts we offer our children no longer apply.

So, what is happening to kids?

- Why do they pay more attention to their peers than parents?
- What makes brand-name clothes and looking sexy so appealing?
- Why are they drawn to 'out there' behaviour, and why are depression, cutting, eating disorders and drinking on the rise?
- How do so many kids lead secret lives?
- Why are increasing numbers accessing porn?

Over three years Maggie Hamilton interviewed dozens of boys and girls, teachers, school counsellors, psychologists, law enforcement and medical personnel to get an insider's view on what they are experiencing at present. Maggie will share her key findings and solutions to the issues our boys and girls currently face.

Who Should Attend

Grandparents
Kin Caregivers
Family Counsellors and Therapists
Family Violence Practitioners

Policy and Legal Advisers
Child Advocates
Youth Workers
Psychologists

Family Lawyers
Judges
Academics
Social Workers

Day 2 – Thursday 17 November 2011

12.40pm Lunch

1.40pm When We're In Trouble, Can You Step Up? Expert Panel

Government departments and NGO agencies delivering services at the coal face will come together to discuss how policy and practise addresses the needs of grandparents. This is your opportunity to question the experts.

Robyn Rusher

Ministry of Social Development

Claire Dale, Child Poverty Action Group

Tracie Shipton, Dinglewall Trust

Major Janee Sawyer, Salvation Army

Jill Devlin, Open Home Foundation

2.40pm Afternoon Tea

3.00pm Delving Into the Legal Language

Allan Cooke, *Barrister*

Legal paid counsel for child roles – What role is played? What are the responsibilities, requirements and potential danger areas for grandparents raising their grandchildren. How can grandparents be helped?

3.30pm Discussing Your Child's Rights

Ben Mills, *YouthLaw*

The *YouthLaw Workshop* will discuss what rights are, why we have them, who has them, and where responsibilities will fit in. It will then examine a few key areas of law in which children and young people are particularly vulnerable. The workshop will aim to help participants be advocates of child rights, and help others to do the same.

4.00pm Stay Active and Healthy at Any Age

Kerri Wells

Sport Auckland – Green Prescription Service

Green Prescription is a Government initiative funded by Ministry of Health. A *Green Prescription* is written advice issued by a General Practitioner (GP), Practice Nurse or other nominated Health Professionals recommending a person (18yrs +) become more physically active for health benefits. Kerri will share with you easy ways to stay active within the reality and routine of your daily lives.

4.30pm Conclusion of Day 1

7.00pm Conference Dinner Ellerslie Event Centre

8.30am Opening of Day 2 and Summary of Day 1

Jill Worrall, MC

8.50am Support For Positive Futures

Bernadine MacKenzie

Child, Youth and Family

What are CYF's policies for grandparents raising their grandchildren? Bernadine will share how they help make lives better.

9.50am Leaving an Inheritance to Your Children's Children

Yvonne Godfrey, *MOMO*

Yvonne Godfrey knows the heartache of a family splintered and a grandchild at risk because the parents were unstable. Her own 4-year-old grandson's father who at the time was a methamphetamine addict and dealer, attempted to murder her daughter's partner. The incident hit every news headline and for a time shattered a little boy's dreams. Yvonne will tell her story and share how love, practical help and firm boundaries brought healing to their family.

10.20am Morning Tea

10.40am Leaving a Legacy Workshop

Yvonne Godfrey, *MOMO*

Key points to be covered in the workshop include, inheritance is more than money – what will you leave for your children's children; understanding co-dependence – when helping hurts the ones you love; keeping the dream alive for the children and looking after you!

11.40am The Dangers of Technology

Lee Chisholm, *NetSafe*

Young people are online from a very early age. The internet has opened up learning, communication and information in ways we may never have imagined. How can we help our young people be good digital citizens? What are they up to and what do they need to learn to manage online challenges? This presentation will explore their world and our role – what do we need to learn? Come with your questions!

12.10pm Lunch

1.10pm Keeping Grandparents Safe

Jennie Michel, *Age Concern New Zealand*

An overview will be provided of the role of an *Elder Abuse and Neglect* service and what the service tries to achieve. Some situations will be discussed that will illustrate this work and the associated difficulties when working with older adults and their families. Jennie will share some specific scenarios

of clients she has supported who are raising grandchildren or clients who have found themselves playing a parental role in their grandchildren's lives more by default than an active decision brought about by circumstances early in the child or children's lives. Jennie will cover aspects of growing old and taking care of yourselves, which grandparents who are raising grandchildren may not have the space in their lives to review and to make important decisions that could be of value to them at a later date.

1.40pm The Mysteries Of Your Child's School Environment

Tom Robson, *Secondary Principals' Association of New Zealand*

Uncover the mysteries of *NCEA* by learning how to understand report cards. Tom will share how to get best value from parent teacher meetings, how to get the best information out of school interactions and student progress. He will also touch on social networks and other challenges facing teenagers and consequently their caregivers.

2.20pm The Challenges of Kinship Care

Dr Nicola Atwool, *Children's Commissioner*

In this presentation Nicola will outline the significance of secure attachment for children's development before exploring the implications in the context of kinship care. The impact of trauma will be discussed and issues related to contact with birth parents and the challenges of the teenage years will be explored.

2.50pm Afternoon Tea

3.10pm Dealing with Emotional Turmoil

Ashna Storey, *Shine*

Ashna will discuss the pressure that is put on personal relationships and the change of lifestyles that occur when a child enters your life unexpectedly. How to deal with the emotional turmoil that comes with such a situation.

3.40pm How Can Barnardos Help? Murray Edridge

CEO, *Barnardos New Zealand*

Barnardos is one of New Zealand's largest non-government organisations committed to working with children, young people and their families. What can Barnardos offer to assist grandparents?

4.10pm A Surprise Activity!

4.30pm Conclusion of the Conference

The Speakers

Jill Worrall

holds a *Masters in Social Work* and has been a senior lecturer in *Social Work* at Massey University and is currently a *Massey Honorary Research Associate*. She is a Board member of both Youth Horizons Trust and SAFE and is a life member of the New Zealand Family and Foster Care Federation. She has completed research on the care of children who have been the subject of abuse and/or neglect both in New Zealand and overseas and currently works as a consultant on *Social Work Policy and Practice*. She was raised by extended family for a critical part of her childhood.

Diane Levy

is a Counsellor, Family Therapist, Speaker and Author of three practical, informative and humorous books; *Of course I love you...NOW GO TO YOUR ROOM!* (*Strategies for Raising Toddlers to Teens in New Zealand*), *They look so lovely when they're asleep* (*Advice and anecdotes for practising parents*) and *Time Out for tots, teens and everyone in between* (*How to get your children to do as they're told*). She writes regular agony aunt answers for *littlies* and the *New Zealand Woman's Weekly* and was the Therapist/Presenter of the television programme *Demons to Darlings*. Diane's main focus is coaching parents and she is best known for her practical, informative and humorous approach to the problems that beset parents, educators, couples and families. She is the proud grandparent of two grandchildren.

Judith Morris

works privately as a child therapist, specialising for nearly thirty years in the application of attachment theory to therapeutic work with children and their caregivers, foster and kinship careers, adoptive and birth parents – and grandparents. She also works and has undertaken research as a social work consultant. She provides training and supervision for psychologists, counsellors, therapists and social workers.

Maggie Hamilton

is a writer and publisher, she writes books and for magazines; gives talks and lectures; is a regular media commentator and a keen observer of social trends. She has held a number of senior roles in publishing and at the ABC. Her books include *What Men Don't Talk About*, which examines the lives of real men

and boys, and *What's Happening to Our Girls?* and *What's Happening to Our Boys?* which look at the 21st century challenges our children are facing and the solutions to these issues.

Bernadine MacKenzie

Prior to joining Child, Youth and Family, Bernadine had 25 years experience in the health sector, where she held a number of senior nursing and management roles. Bernadine joined Child, Youth and Family as Manager Quality Assurance in 2005, and has since held other key roles, including General Manager Service Support and later, General Manager Youth Justice. In this role, Bernadine shepherded in the Government's Youth Justice *Fresh Start* reforms. Bernadine is now Deputy Chief Executive for Child, Youth and Family. "The challenges are so rewarding, and it's great knowing we've got staff who are hugely committed to our work with vulnerable children, young people and families – to help make their lives better and support them to have positive futures."

Yvonne Godfrey

is an acclaimed businesswoman, author and speaker, communicating her leadership messages in 24 countries to over 100,000 people. In what she calls her midlife opportunity, Yvonne founded a charity, MIO MO or (Making it on my Own). MIO MO is a 10-day live-in experience equipping 17-24 year olds to lead responsible, independent and successful adult lives. She is also a Grandmother who has dealt with trauma in the life of her grandchild's parent.

Dr Nicola Atwool

Nicola Atwool is a Principal Advisor in the Office of the Children's Commissioner. Prior to taking up this position at the beginning of 2006 she was a Senior Lecturer in social work at the University of Otago and worked with the Children's Issues Centre. Nicola was employed in a variety of roles by what is now Child, Youth and Family for nearly twenty years before taking up an academic position. Nicola has professional qualifications in social work and child psychotherapy and a long-standing interest in advocacy for children and young people. Nicola has a particular interest in attachment theory and resilience and in 2008 completed a PhD exploring the use of attachment assessments in decision-making for children in care.

Accommodation Options

The *Novotel Auckland Ellerslie* and the *Ibis Ellerslie* are two hotels ideally located within walking distance of the *Ellerslie Event Centre*

The following conference rates are available to delegates. Please phone **09 529 9091** to make a reservation and tell them you are attending the conference to secure these preferential rates. All rates include GST

Novotel Auckland Ellerslie ★★★★★

NZ\$189.00 per room per night (room only) based on maximum two persons per room

NZ\$209.00 per room per night (room and full buffet breakfast) based on one person per room

NZ\$229.00 per room per night (room and full buffet breakfast) based on two persons per room

Ibis Ellerslie ★★☆☆

NZ\$129.00 per room per night (room only) based on maximum two persons per room

NZ\$149.00 per room per night (room and full buffet breakfast) based on one person per room

NZ\$169.00 per room per night (room and full buffet breakfast) based on two persons per room



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Ellerslie Event Centre**

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“The best time used to be when he went to bed and I could relax. Now it is a joy to sit at the table enjoying animated intelligent conversation with grandson and friends, knowing that however difficult it has been I have done a splendid job raising an amazing kid who despite his rough start in life has grown into an even more amazing young man”

2009 GRG Trust Research