

SCCWN
12th
Conference



South Coast Child Wellbeing Network Conference 2023

**Tuesday 19th
September 2023**

The Pavilion
2 Bong Bong Street, Kiama

Registration opens 8am | Conference from 8:30am until 4pm

Purchase your tickets here

Tickets
\$85

Being Supportive starts with being Supported

Exploring Grief, Loss and Wellbeing

In celebration of Child Protection Week, we welcome clinicians and other professionals who work with children and their families to our annual conference.

This year we are excited to feature our Keynote Speaker, **Manny Kassiotis** as well as **Tracey Cairns, Zeljka Jovanovic and more to be confirmed** who will be presenting fantastic workshops.

Buy tickets at www.sccwn.org.au/events

**Child Protection Week
5 - 11 September 2023**

Keynote Speaker and Workshop 1

Ambiguous Loss

In this workshop participants will gain a greater understanding of what ambiguous loss looks like in the context of working with children and families impacted by non-death related losses. They will also gain further insight and awareness on how best to support children and families impacted by ambiguous loss.

Manny Kassiotis has worked in the child and family welfare sector for over 15 years with extensive experience supporting children and young people affected by grief and trauma both in Australia and overseas. Manny works within a human rights, social justice and child protection framework, with a particular emphasis on supporting those affected by trauma, grief and loss.

He holds a Bachelor of Social Work, a Master of Arts (Theology), and he is on the Board of Directors for CaraCare. Manny Kassiotis has worked in the child and family welfare sector for over 15 years with extensive experience supporting children and young people affected by grief and trauma both in Australia and overseas.

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Manny is a key member of the Cara team, working as clinical manager of Cara House as well as providing individual and group therapy, clinical supervision, and training facilitation and development. Manny is passionate about providing consultation that not only informs but provides strong skill building. With over 10 years' experience facilitating training, supervision and seminars in the community sector, Manny has presented training seminars and conferences at both a state and national level.

Workshop 2

First Nations Grief and Loss

This workshop will explore the ways grief and loss can be experienced in First Nations families and communities.

Tracey Cairns is a Psychologist working in private practice in the Shoalhaven and Illawarra regions. Her family connections are to the Wiradjuri area. The family's experiences of the Stolen Generations have resulted in a disconnection that has impacted on belonging, learning to live between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal culture.

Tracey has worked with Aboriginal families and communities in her roles in Child and Family Centres, Women's Housing, the Mental Health Services, and within the Aboriginal Medical Service.

Workshop 3

Exploring Grief, loss and wellbeing: Multicultural perspectives

Australian society is increasingly becoming multicultural and learning how to adapt our organisation toward inclusion is becoming a fundamental topic. Lack of access, familiarity with the services, isolation and other factors can contribute to lower participation in early learning and increased vulnerability for families from multicultural backgrounds.

This workshop will explore different areas such as cultural identity, values and beliefs, communication strategies, and cultural intelligence and how all these factors can affect grief, loss and wellbeing in multicultural families. It aims to equip the participants with the skills to apply a lens of cultural responsiveness and create a more adaptive environment where their clients can thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

Through culturally inclusive and adaptive considerations, we can support individuals during the grieving process and build on their resilience and wellbeing.

Zeljka Jovanovic is the founder of Apeiron Skills. Zeljka has over seventeen years of experience working in the community service industry. She supported clients from refugee backgrounds with settlement, integration, employment, and connections to the services and broader community.

Zeljka's work has exposed her to various family compositions and complexities, including work with families experiencing torture and trauma and post-traumatic stress. Zeljka worked closely with local family services providers to support families with children, including early childhood services. Her expertise extends to the education sector, where she has been teaching community services and mental health subjects and delivered numerous cultural competence training across NSW and ACT. Zeljka holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Diploma of Leadership and Management, Mental Health First Aid and Certificate IV in Training and Assessment.

She believes that lived experience and practical examples are integral to learning. She worked with numerous people from diverse backgrounds, and her greatest achievement is being part of someone's journey to a better life and positively impacting our community. Zeljka is dedicated to creating an environment where everyone feels included and has opportunities to thrive. build patterns of safety that can be relied on future ruptures.