

Tuesday, 20 July 2010

FREE PRESENTATION AND PANEL DISCUSSION: 6-8pm

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES OF WORKING WITH REFUGEE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS



Presenter Profile—SAMANTHA MCGUFFIE

Samantha McGuffie is the Coordinator of the Schools Support Program for the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (VFST) and has worked at VFST for the last 3 years.

Prior to this Samantha's work has involved community development, youth work, social work and health promotion across a range of settings including local government, women's health, community and neighbourhood centres.

Presentation Summary

Schools are in an excellent position to support children, young people and families of refugee background in their resettlement and recovery from trauma.

VFST prioritises supporting schools through the development of regional networks. Refugee Action Networks (RANs) aim to support each school in the network as they develop and implement a whole school approach to supporting students of refugee background.

This presentation will outline the VFST RAN strategy and promote the benefits of working in partnership with schools in a way that enhances systemic change.



Presenter Profile—ELISABETH PICKERING

Elisabeth Pickering has worked with migrants and refugees in schools for over 35 years.

She is currently working as a School Counsellor at Cabramatta and Chester Hill High School Intensive English Centres.

She has worked on numerous projects to assist refugees. She developed the first 'Settling In' program at Cabramatta in 1992.

Elisabeth's special interests include grief and trauma, the process of resettlement, cross-cultural counselling, and issues of access and equity.

Presentation Summary

The presentation will cover the rationale and benefits of conducting groups with students from refugee backgrounds in the school context.

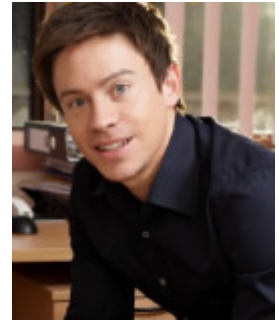
Challenges that arise when running groups will be discussed along with strategies to address these challenges.

Examples will be drawn from experiences with 'Settling In' and Capoeira Angola groups.

Program

Registrations and refreshments	6.00 pm
Address Jorge Aroche Executive Director STARTTS	6.30 pm
Guest Speaker Samantha McGuffie Presentation	6.35 pm
Guest Speaker Elisabeth Pickering Presentation	6.50 pm
Discussion Panel Samantha McGuffie—VFST Elisabeth Pickering—NSW DET Max Schneider—STARTTS	7.05 pm
Closing Remarks	8.00 pm

Max Schneider is the Schools Liaison Officer at STARTTS. He holds postgraduate qualifications in Psychotherapy and Counselling and in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.



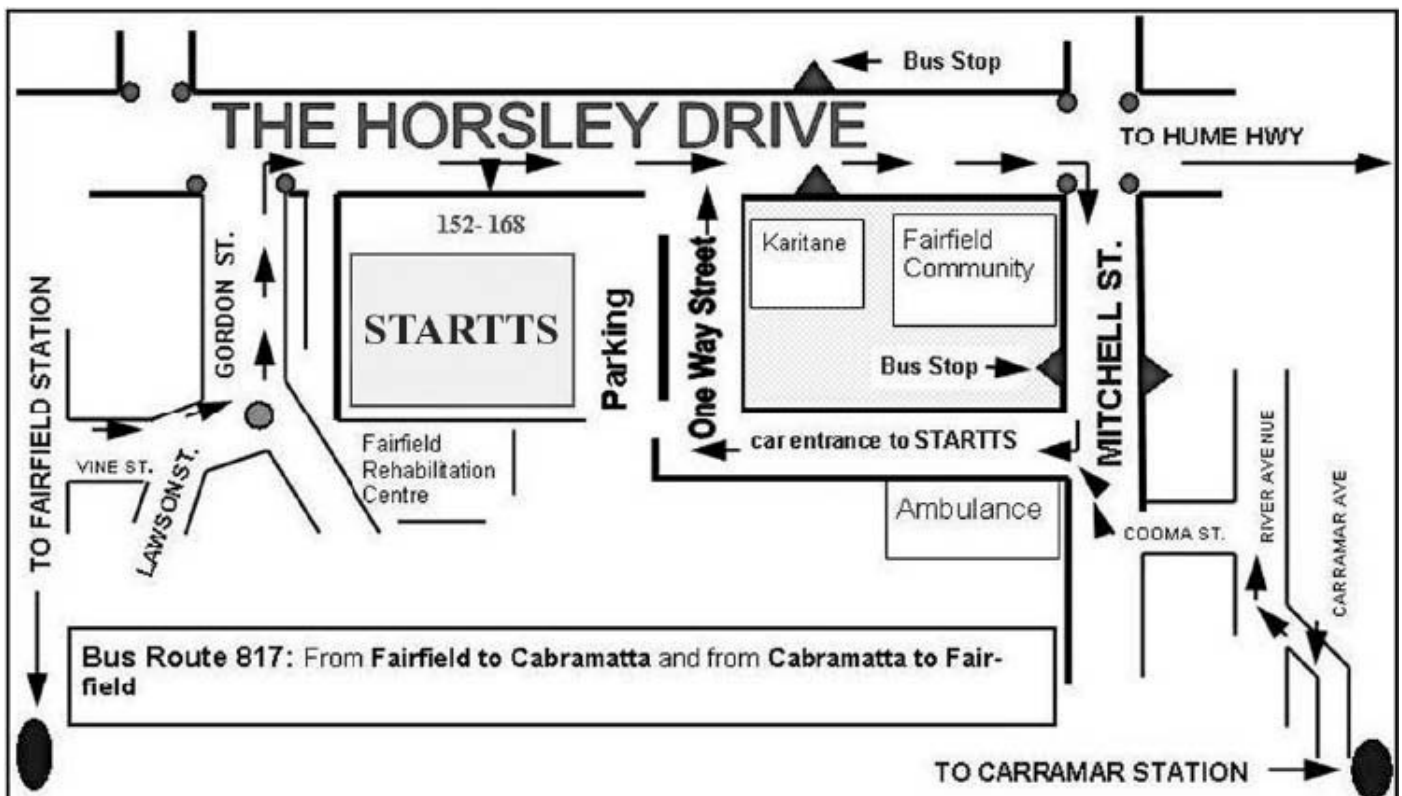
Max has worked clinically both in private practice and in school settings in Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney. He also has many years experience in policy development with the former Department of Education, Science and Training.

Max's main professional interest is in the area of childhood trauma. He uses various therapeutic approaches to treat children and adolescent clients at STARTTS, and works closely with the public and private school systems.

Venue Details:

Large Group Room, STARTTS Office
152-168 The Horsley Drive, Carramar

For more information about STARTTS: www.startts.org.au



PLEASE REGISTER with STARTTS reception to ensure we plan adequately for seating and catering (\$5 donation encouraged for food)

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