



Vocational Graduate Certificate in

# Developmental Trauma

21910VIC



# Melbourne

2010 ACCREDITED TRAINING PROGRAM

Australian Childhood  
Foundation



NATIONALLY RECOGNISED  
TRAINING



Australian  
Childhood Foundation  
Protecting Children

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Missing my  
sister

It feels like  
a big  
tear

WHAT IS  
COUNSELLING

LIK  
Counselling is also good  
because it brings the family  
together

Happy house  
Where NO bad things  
happen.

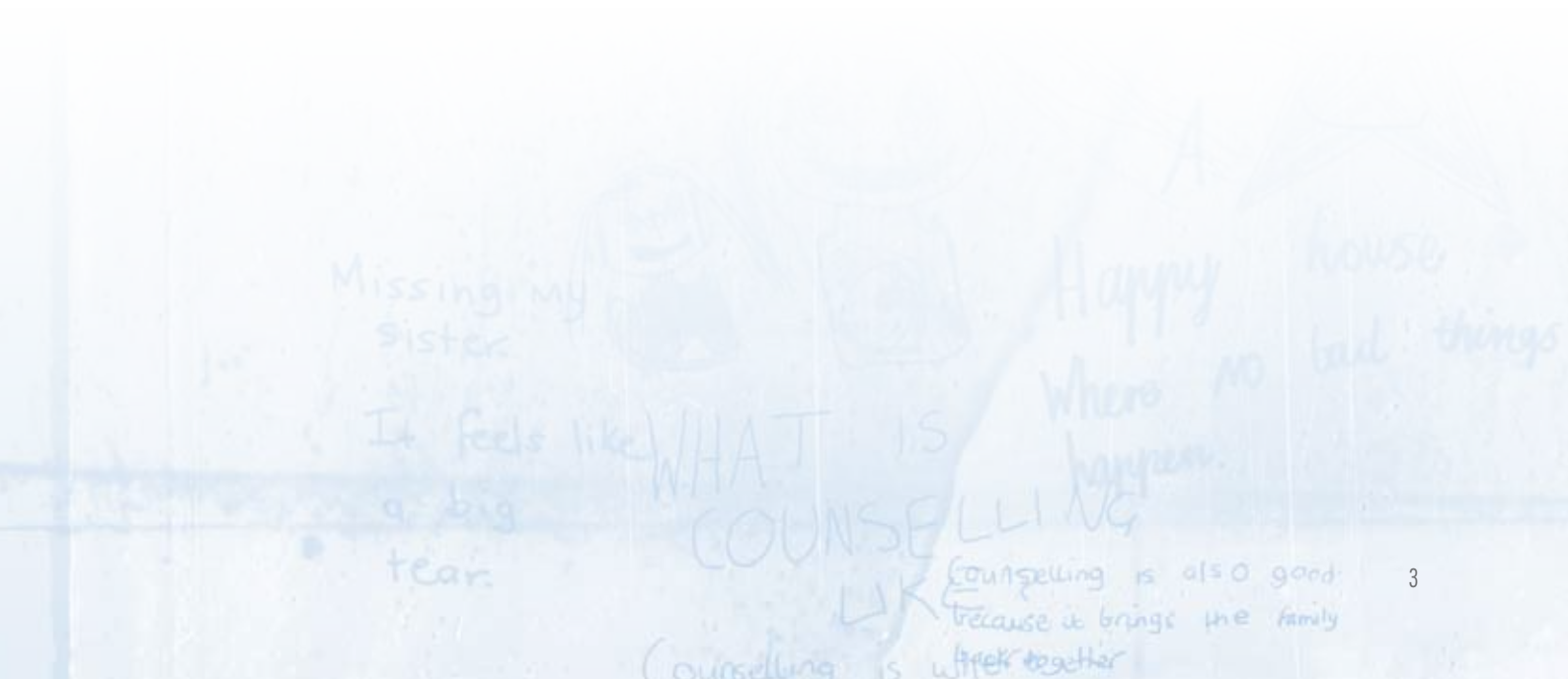
# Introduction

The emerging knowledge about neurobiology is fast becoming the basis for best practice with children and young people who have experienced abuse and violence. It includes an understanding of normative brain development and the subsequent effect of abuse-related trauma on the brain architecture and functioning of children and young people.

The Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma has been developed in response to an industry need identified by the Australian Childhood Foundation. This innovative, practical and relevant post graduate qualification will be offered for the first time in 2010 to welfare, education and health professionals interested in enhancing their approach to supporting abused and traumatized children, young people and their families.

The qualification presents participants with the knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of children and young people affected by the cumulative developmental and neurobiological harm caused by of abuse and violence. It also provides the basis for participants to learn how to implement creative, consistent and multi-systemic responses to traumatized children, young people and their carers or family.

**This is the only Vocational Graduate Certificate in Australia to examine and apply the emerging knowledge base about the neurobiology of trauma on working with and supporting children and young people who have experienced abuse, neglect and family violence.**



# Course participants and pre-requisites

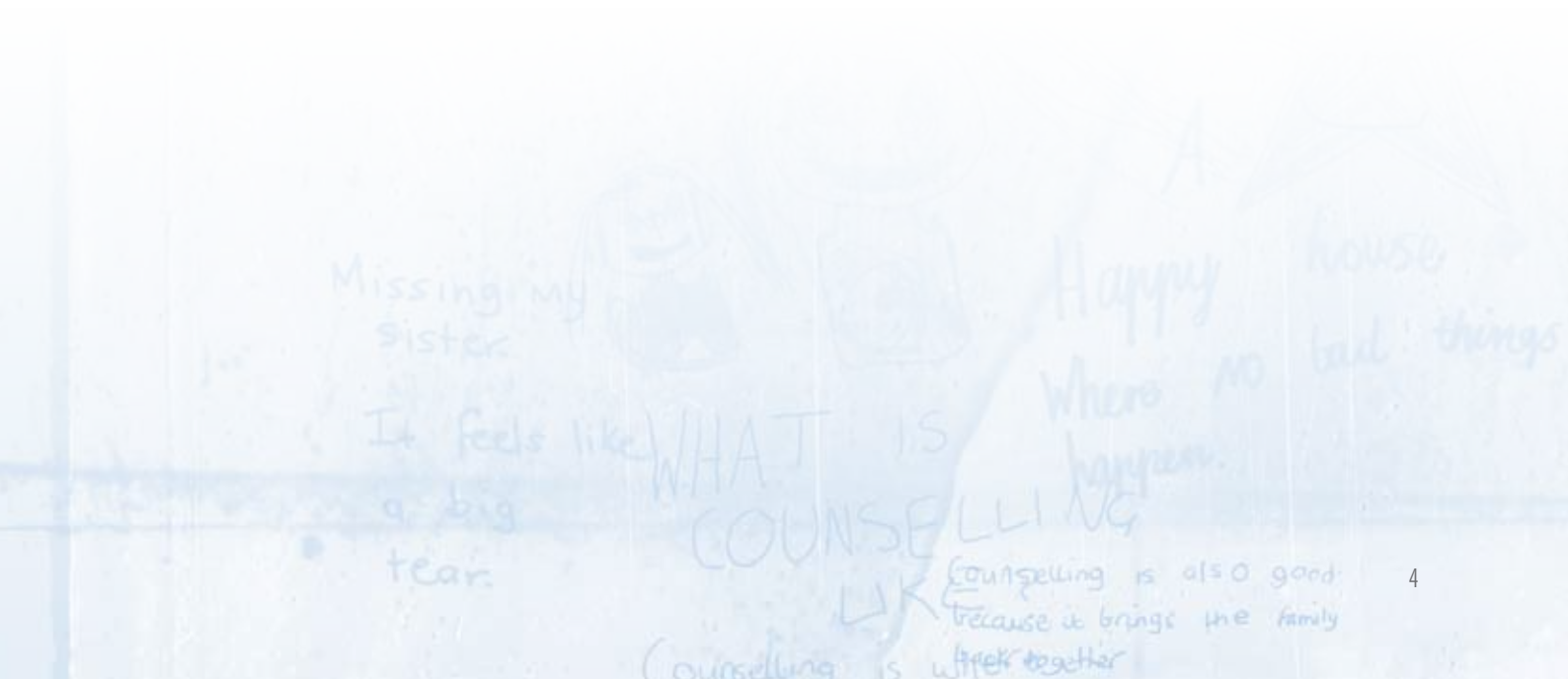
This course has been developed for education, welfare and health professionals with relevant qualifications and substantial work experience in their fields. It is expected that these participants are:

- seeking to build on their current practice
- creative
- looking for challenging information
- wanting inspiration, validation or energizing
- focused on positive outcomes for children, young people and their families

The course would suit individuals working in child protection, out of home care, family support, drug and alcohol services, family violence services, youth support programs and education settings. It will also resource the development of individuals with roles providing care in foster and/or residential care.

To undertake this course, you will need to provide evidence of ONE of the following:

- A Bachelor or higher education qualification in youth work, welfare, social work, psychology, social science or equivalent
- An Advanced Diploma qualification in community services, youth work, or welfare
- Current employment in a welfare related organisation with extensive experience working with children.



# Answering your questions about the course

## Has this course been run before?

This innovative course has been developed in response to an identified need from the field regarding implementing the emerging neurobiology knowledge into practice in a range of education and welfare settings.

2010 is the first time the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma will be facilitated.

There is a plan to develop a further course at the Vocational Graduate Diploma level into 2011 and beyond.

## Will this course challenge me as I bring a good depth of knowledge and experience?

This course builds on the training program already developed and facilitated by the Australian Childhood Foundation to address the needs of infants, children and adolescents who have experienced abuse or relational based trauma.

You will be exposed to up to date research about the neurobiology of trauma. You will also be supported to understand and apply clear frameworks for assessing and working with children who have experienced abuse related trauma, their families and their care systems.

The course will also require you to make direct links to your current work role as well as extend your thinking about how to best incorporate the implications of this knowledge base to your organization.

## Will this course aid me in my work with adults who experienced childhood trauma?

The focus of this course is on the socioneurobiological impact of relational trauma on infants, children and adolescents and practice application stemming from that framework. The framework is also useful in work with adults who have experienced childhood trauma.

Please contact the course coordinator at [training@childhood.org.au](mailto:training@childhood.org.au) if you would like to discuss this specific question further.

## How will the course be delivered?

The course is delivered via 20 face to face training days and web based individual student support to complete practical applications of the core knowledge into the workplace.

The delivery model of the course reinforces participant's skills, acknowledges their expertise and supports individual training pathways. The course uses different modalities (video presentations, workshop discussion, small group activities) presented by experienced course facilitators from the Australian Childhood Foundation. It is built on continual opportunities to link theory to practice.

### Is there a practicum component to the course?

No, there is no expectation of a specific practicum or placement component to this course. Course participants should be currently employed in the field and have the opportunity to reflect on current practice. A form to explain this expectation to employers will be distributed in the lead up to the course after registration.

### What professional recognition does this course have?

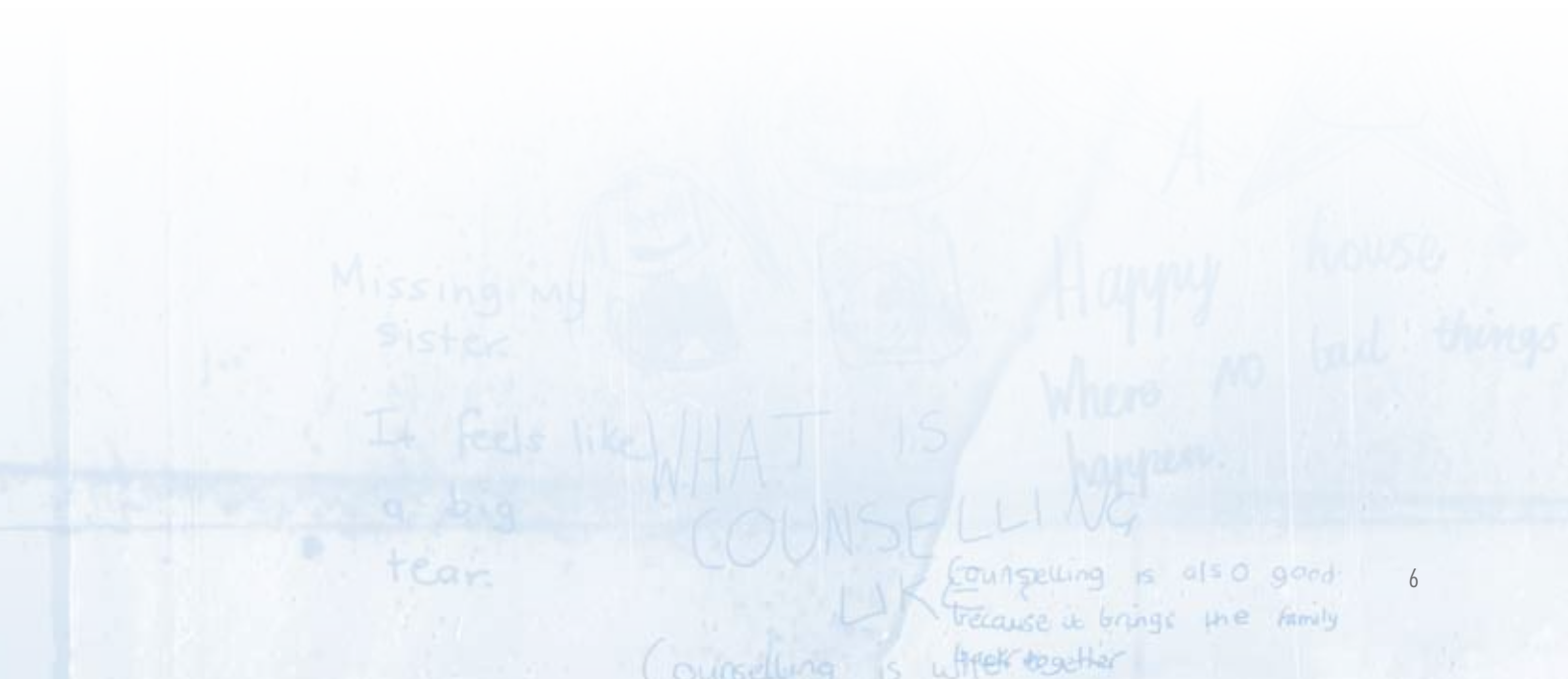
This course has been accredited nationally through a rigorous accreditation process and is only facilitated by the Australian Childhood Foundation. The Foundation is a Registered Training Organisation. A Vocational Graduate Certificate is recognized as an equivalent qualification in depth and complexity as a Graduate Certificate in the Higher Education sector. The vocational sector focuses all qualifications into specific work-based application.

### Is this course affiliated with a university?

As discussed above, this course is not affiliated with a university because it is a vocationally based course rather than a higher education course.

### What employment opportunities will be accessible with this course?

Course participants will receive a transcript of their results and a certificate of attainment at the successful completion of this course. This nationally recognized qualification will add an additional resource to your professional resume.



# Course content

This course is structured to include one module of core knowledge and three units of competency exploring the application of this knowledge in a range of settings and roles.

## **CORE KNOWLEDGE MODULE: *The Neurobiology of Complex Trauma***

The purpose of this initial module is to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills required to further understand the ways complex developmental trauma affect children's brain development and functioning. It also examines the principles of an integrated response framework that resources change across settings for children and young people who have experienced trauma.

### **Content includes:**

- Normative brain development and its impact on development, functioning and behaviour
- Defining trauma and the concepts of relationally based developmental trauma
- Neurobiology of trauma impacts for infants, children and adolescents
- Trauma identification framework
- Exploring the role of family within the developmental trauma framework
- Principles of a response framework
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants

## **UNIT OF COMPETENCY 1: *Applying knowledge of developmental trauma to understand a child's recovery needs***

This unit brings the developmental trauma framework to the fore in understanding children and young people's specific recovery needs. This application is situated within the specific context of each candidate's workplace and role. It also enables exploration of the broader systems in which the child is involved.

### **Content includes:**

- Reviewing current participant needs based frameworks
- Building a needs based framework underpinned by a developmental trauma foundation
- Utilising a trauma based history taking process, by linking it to current processes
- Interactions that underpin that enhance interpretation of recovery needs
- Mapping the key stakeholders in a needs based framework
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants

## **UNIT OF COMPETENCY 2: Contribute to the development of an integrated trauma response plan for the child in their context**

There is a focus in this unit on clarity of planning across services to incorporate the knowledge and skills explored in the core knowledge module. This unit has a particularly practical focus in terms of working effectively across systems and services with a core understanding of the impacts of trauma and the requirements of any effective intervention plan.

### **Content includes:**

- Care team approach
- Trauma response plan framework
- Connecting with families in the development of a trauma response plan
- Exploring the broader systems involved in work with the infant, child or adolescent- both systemic restraints and resources
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants

## **UNIT OF COMPETENCY 3: Implement and review specific trauma response plans**

The final unit enables candidates to develop and implement creative, trauma focused multi-modal strategies and practices that most effectively support children and young people who have experienced developmental trauma. The application focus includes individual work, group work, family work and case management processes.

### **Content includes:**

- Introduction to neurosequential model of intervention
- Conflicts and constraints of trauma based practice within participant workplaces
- Developing multi-modal neurosequential strategies
- Utilising those strategies within the care team context
- Monitoring the application of strategies
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants

# Assessment requirements

This course will require a time commitment outside of class time to complete a range of assessment tasks. Most assessment tasks will be linked to the workplace and current practice of course participants.

Assessment tasks will include theoretical reviews, short answer papers, evaluative tasks, role plays, plans putting the course content into practice, class presentations and one extended written task.

As this is a vocationally based course, assessments are made utilizing a competency based framework. Course participants are required to demonstrate competence in the skills identified in the course and are marked accordingly as “competent” or “not yet competent”.

# Course timetable

The Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma requires attendance at 20 facilitated days. The Melbourne course for 2010 will be held on the following dates:

- Introductory block:** Tuesday 23rd March – Friday 26th March (inclusive)
- Block 2:** Friday 23rd April and Saturday 24th April
- Block 3:** Friday 21st May and Saturday 22nd May
- Block 4:** Thursday 24th June and Friday 25th June
- Block 5:** Friday 23rd July and Saturday 24th July
- Block 6:** Friday 20th August and Saturday 21st August
- Block 7:** Thursday 16th September and Friday 17th September
- Closing block:** Tuesday 19th October – Friday 22nd October (inclusive)

All training days will run from 9.30am – 4.30pm

The Melbourne course will be held at:



**Australian Childhood Foundation**  
**579 Whitehorse Road**  
**Mitcham**

# Fees schedule and payment options

The cost of the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma is \$4500.

This cost includes 20 days of training, individual student support, all course materials and catering- morning and afternoon tea and lunch- for all sessions.

To provide a range of opportunities to enable you to access the course, the following payment options are available:

<b>Early bird payment</b> (full course payment prior to 15th December 2009)	<b>\$3950</b>
<b>Standard payment</b> (full course payment prior to 26th March)	<b>\$4500</b>
<b>Installment payments</b> First payment by 23rd March 2010 Final payment by 12th July 2010	<b>\$4600</b> \$2300 \$2300

## Further information

For further information about the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma please contact the Course Coordinator, Marina Dickson, at:

[training@childhood.org.au](mailto:training@childhood.org.au)

Ph: 03 9874 3922

For further information about being an accredited course participant at Australian Childhood Foundation you can access the Student Handbook at [www.childhood.org.au](http://www.childhood.org.au) and follow the links to the Professional Education/Training section.

# Enrolment form

## Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma 2010 Melbourne course

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Role: \_\_\_\_\_

Workplace: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Pre-requisites

I have an undergraduate qualification

Course title: \_\_\_\_\_

I have an Advanced Diploma qualification

Course title: \_\_\_\_\_

I have extensive experience in working with children

Details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I heard about this course from \_\_\_\_\_

I want to do this course because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Enrolment form continued

Payment details

- \$3950 (incl GST)** Early bird rate - payment by 15th December 2009
- \$4500 (incl GST)** Standard rate - payment by 26th March 2010
- \$4600 (incl GST)** Instalment payments
  - \$2300 by 23rd February 2010
  - \$2300 by 12th July 2010

Please accept my payment by:

- VISA  
  Mastercard  
  Amex  
  Diners  
  Cheque  
  Money Order

Credit Card Number:

Card Holders Signature	Expiry Date /
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**Cheque Payment**

Cheques made payable to **Australian Childhood Foundation**  
 Mail to: **PO Box 525, Ringwood, Vic 3134**

**Electronic Funds Transfer**

Contact us directly by email on [training@childhood.org.au](mailto:training@childhood.org.au) to organise an Electronic Funds Transfer direct from a bank account.