Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma 10462NAT
NSW Department of Education
Course information booklet
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Introduction

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

The Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma (formerly the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma) was developed in response to an industry need identified by the Australian Childhood Foundation and has been running since 2010. This revised version of the innovative, practical and relevant post graduate qualification was offered for the first time in 2015 to welfare, education and health professionals interested in enhancing their practice with abused and traumatised children, young people and their families and continues to meet identified sector needs.

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

The Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma is being offered to the school counseling workforce to enhance their practice with children and young people who have experienced abuse, neglect and family violence.

Whilst applications are open to all members of the school counseling workforce, priority will be given to Senior Psychologists, Education and District Guidance Officers.

Funding for this scholarship is provided through the NSW Government’s Supported Students, Successful Students initiative.
Course participants and pre-requisites

This course has been developed for education, welfare and health professionals working in the field, with previous qualifications and significant experience. It is expected that these participants are:

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

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

Being currently employed in a relevant role AND:

- A Bachelor or higher education qualification in education, youth work, welfare, social work, psychology, social science or equivalent OR
- An Advanced Diploma qualification in community services, youth work, or welfare OR
- Extensive experience working with children in an unsupervised capacity.
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 settings.

It has been successfully run across Australia since 2010 as the Vocational Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma and continues to be very positively evaluated as building knowledge, skills and enabling a thoughtful and reflective professional development opportunity.

There are ongoing plans to develop a further course at a Graduate Diploma level in the next 1 – 2 years.

What is happening with the course reaccreditation process?

The course has been reaccredited by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). This process occurs every 5 years. It has resulted in the course being renamed and recoded to the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma 10462NAT. This process has enabled the Australian Childhood Foundation to ensure that the course content and delivery remains relevant, up-to-date and high quality.

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-framed as developmental trauma.

It has been developed to facilitate the process of enhanced exploration and application of the knowledge and practice of trauma based work within the identified context.

The expectation is that you will be challenged as the course makes direct links to course participants’ current practice.

How will the course be delivered?

The course is delivered via 22 face-to-face training days, individual participant support and application into the workplace.

The delivery model is one that reinforces participant’s skills, acknowledges their expertise and seeks to extend their engagement throughout the course. This is planned through utilising a range of delivery methods, a number of experienced course facilitators and continual opportunities to link theory to practice.

Is there a practicum component to the course?

No, there is no expectation of a specific practicum component to this course. Course participants need to be currently employed in a relevant role and have the opportunity to reflect on current practice. A form to explain this expectation to employers will be distributed in the first course session if requested.
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 (No. 22094). A Graduate Certificate in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector is equivalent in depth and complexity to 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 certification is provided following successful completion of this course?

Course participants will receive a transcript of their results and a certificate of attainment at the successful completion of this course, or when requested if the course is not completed. This nationally recognised qualification will add an additional resource to your professional resume.

How do I find out about my rights and responsibilities as a student/course participant with Australian Childhood Foundation?

A generic student handbook, outlining policies and processes associated with accredited training at Australian Childhood Foundation, is available at www.childhood.org.au/for-professionals. You will be provided with a course specific handbook either on registration or during the first learning block. You will be asked to sign a declaration acknowledging that you have received this handbook and agree to your rights and responsibilities as outlined.

If you have any questions about the policies and processes associated with accredited training at Australian Childhood Foundation prior to receipt of this handbook, please email courses@childhood.org.au
Course content

This course is structured to include four Units of Competency exploring the application of this knowledge in a range of settings and roles. The unit codes associated with this course are available at www.training.gov.au

DTRKDT801A: Apply a knowledge of developmental trauma to professional practice

The purpose of this unit is to provide the foundation knowledge and framework required for the rest of the course content. The focus of this unit is to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills required to further understand the ways complex developmental trauma affect children and young people’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 and body development including developmental areas, functioning and behaviour
- Defining trauma and the concepts of relationally based developmental trauma
- Overall impacts of trauma for infants, children and adolescents
- Exploration of the role of culture, families, organisations and systems on supporting and enabling reparative outcomes for traumatised children and young people
- Examining the impact on the professional of working with traumatised children and young people
- Construction of a developmental trauma informed practice map, and
- Contextualising that practice map to the participant’s workplace

DTRUAF802A: Develop a developmental trauma assessment framework to guide professional practice

This unit focuses on using an understanding of developmental trauma to construct an assessment framework that supports effective intervention with traumatised children and young people. This application is situated within the specific context of each participant’s workplace and role. It also enables exploration of the broader systems in which the child is situated.

Content includes:
- Examining what constitutes a developmental trauma assessment framework
- Exploring what differentiates a trauma focused assessment framework from other assessment frameworks
- Analysing the domains of a developmental trauma assessment framework
- Developing a developmental trauma assessment framework that is contextualised to the participant’s workplace and practice
- Considering the contextual factors and key stakeholders to be included in a contextualised assessment framework
Course content

DTRAFN803A: Apply the assessment framework to develop a trauma informed plan for children and young people

There is a focus in this unit on putting the developmental trauma assessment framework into practice to analyse the needs of children and young people who have experienced developmental trauma. The outcome of this process is a trauma informed plan that will provide therapeutic and reparative goals of intervention to best meet the identified needs. This unit includes a 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:
- Exploring collaborative and systemic practice in the context of working with children and young people and those who care for them
- Mapping stakeholder relationships within a child or young person’s sphere of experience
- Implementing a care team approach
- Unpacking and implementing critical thinking and trauma theme analysis skills
- Synthesise analysis and formulate goals to prepare a developmental trauma informed plan
- Exploring the broader systems involved in work with the child or young person - both systemic restraints and resources
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants

DTRDTP804A: Implement and review a developmental trauma informed plan for children and young people

The final unit enables participants 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 through the implementation of the trauma informed plan. The application focus includes individual work, group work, family work and case management processes.

Content includes:
- Exploration of current neurobiological and trauma focused models of intervention
- Conflicts and constraints of trauma based practice within participant workplaces
- Developing multi-modal intervention strategies
- Utilising those strategies within the care team context, while maintaining a child centred orientation
- Monitoring the application of strategies
- Reviewing processes for the plan’s implementation
- Linking all content areas to specific workplace scenarios and examples provided by course participants
Course timetable

The Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma requires attendance at 22 facilitated days, divided into 7 learning blocks.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Block</th>
<th>NSW Department of Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block 1</td>
<td>Monday 1(^{st}) - Wednesday 3(^{rd}) August (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 2</td>
<td>Tuesday 30(^{th}) August – Thursday 1(^{st}) September (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 3</td>
<td>Monday 19(^{th}) – Wednesday 21(^{st}) September (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 4</td>
<td>Tuesday 18(^{th}) – Thursday 20(^{th}) October (inclusive)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 5</td>
<td>Tuesday 15(^{th}) – Friday 18(^{th}) November (inclusive)</td>
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<td><em>Please note, this is a 4 day block</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Block 6</td>
<td>Monday 12(^{th}) – Wednesday 14(^{th}) December (inclusive)</td>
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<td>Block 7</td>
<td>Tuesday 7(^{th}) – Thursday 9(^{th}) February 2017 (inclusive)</td>
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All training days will run from 9.00am – 4.00pm.

The course will be held at Cliftons Sydney, 60 Margaret Street, Sydney unless otherwise advised.

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, reflective plans putting the course content into practice and class presentations. There will also be a number of framework documents to be developed.

As this is a vocationally based course, assessments are made utilizing a competency based framework. Course participants are required to demonstrate competence in the units of competency outlined previously. Individual tasks are marked as ‘Satisfactory’ or ‘Not Yet Satisfactory’ with the final mark for each unit being ‘Competent’ or ‘Not Yet Competent’.

Further Information

For further information about the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma please contact the team at training@childhood.org.au or 03 9874 3922.

The Australian Childhood Foundation student handbook is available at www.childhood.org.au/for-professionals.