

Engaging with parents and infants in the first thousand days

Dr Nick Kowalenko

Psychiatrist

Nick Kowalenko is the immediate past Chair, Faculty of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

He chairs the Tresilian Family Care Centres Council in New South Wales and is Senior Clinical Lecturer, University of Sydney and Head of Perinatal and Infant Mental Health Studies at the NSW Institute of Psychiatry.

He is the Oceania Regional Coordinator, IACAPAP and he co-edited the Medical Journal of Australia's (MJA's) supplement 'Children of Parents with a Mental Illness' and champions mental health early intervention and illness prevention in young people.



Jonathon Main

Social worker and Executive General Manager – Policy and Programs, Relationships Australia

Jonathon is the Executive General Manager of Policy & Programs at Relationships Australia (SA).

Jonathon is a qualified social worker with over 30 years' experience in the provision of services in both clinical and management roles – assisting children and families with complex needs, in the health, child protection and non-government sectors.



Mandy Seyfang

Occupational therapist and infant mental health therapist

Mandy has over 30 years' experience working with individuals, couples and families as a therapist in the mental health area.

For the past 20 years her focus has been on parents and their infants, supporting their relationship during times of great stress and building capacity of the workforce to do the same.

She currently works as the Senior Education Coordinator at Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in South Australia.



Facilitator: Dan Moss

Workforce Development Manager, Emerging Minds

Dan most recently worked as Assistant Director, Performance, Reporting and Evaluation at Department for Child Protection. In this role he worked closely with the Early Intervention Research Directorate to explore the social determinants of child disadvantage and child protection involvement.

Previously, Dan worked for fifteen years as a practitioner, supervisor and senior manager in a range of services at Uniting Communities with children, parents and families dealing with the effects of family violence, child sexual abuse, mental health conditions and drug and alcohol use.

As a practitioner, Dan had a strong interest in narrative and strength-based engagement strategies with children, parent and families. Dan has recently submitted his PhD thesis which includes research on approaches to men's behaviour change programs and a creative writing component.

