

## Engaging mothers and children affected by family and domestic violence



**Professor Sarah Wendt**  
**Professor of Social Work, Flinders University, SA**

Sarah is currently Professor of Social Work at Flinders University. Prior to academia Sarah practiced in the field of

domestic violence. She has taught in social work for over a decade.

Sarah has published on violence against women and social work practice. Her particular research projects explore the impact of domestic violence on women's citizenship, service provision in the field of domestic violence, young women's experiences of violence and abuse, and engaging men to address domestic violence. More recently she has been researching collaboration across child protection and domestic violence sectors.

Sarah has published three books on domestic violence and over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles. She has won approximately 1.5 million in grant funding, including category 1 grants with the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Australian National Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS).

Sarah as expertise in qualitative and mixed method projects addressing violence against women and has extensive history interviewing women and men about sensitive issues. She has vast experience in co-design, the development of interview schedules, ethics requirements, recruitment, protocols,

and data analysis. Over her career, she has interviewed approximately 100 women about their experiences of domestic violence. Sarah is currently Director of the Social Work Innovation Research Living Space (SWIRLS) at Flinders University.  
<https://www.flinders.edu.au/swirls>.

SWIRLS engages with complex problems that need nuanced, evidence-based responses. In doing so, members of SWIRLS embrace innovation, creativity, risk-taking, collaboration, and fresh perspectives.



**Megan Hughes**  
**Executive Manager, Strategic Projects, Women's Safety Services of South Australia, SA**

Megan Hughes has worked in the homelessness sector for all of her working career. This has included homeless youth, homeless women (Catherine House), young pregnant women (Louise Place), and for the last 18 years in domestic and family violence.

She has been a case manager, group worker, executive officer of Southern DV Service and has recently joined Women's Safety Services, SA (WSSSA) with the amalgamation of metropolitan Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Services.

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One of Megan's current projects is to build a framework for the work with children in the programs that WSSSA delivers.

Megan has a Bachelor's Degree in Politics and Sociology and has done many years training and development over her years in the sector.



**Dr Aerinn Morgan**  
**Counsellor, Uniting**  
**Communities, SA**

Dr Aerinn Morgan is a social worker at Uniting Communities.

Aerinn has previously worked extensively in the mental health, women's

health and community health sectors. She is currently the senior practitioner for the Adult and Family Counselling service and supervises a team of 12 counsellors.

The service provides counselling for a wide variety of people's concerns but the predominant issues that are addressed relate to family domestic violence. Aerinn's focus in this work is the safety of women and children and finding ways to invite men to take responsibility for, and change, their behaviour.

She is particularly interested in finding ways to support and maintain a positive and loving connection between the mothers and their children as part of a broader effort to mitigate the effects of family violence on children's lives.



**Facilitator: Dan Moss**  
**Workforce**  
**Development Manager,**  
**Emerging Minds, SA**

Dan Moss most recently worked as Assistant Director, Performance,

Reporting and Evaluation at the 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 Uniting Communities for 15 years, as a practitioner, supervisor and senior manager in a range of services 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.