

## Working with parents who have had children removed



**Jessica Cocks**  
Social Worker, NSW

Jessica Cocks is a social worker and researcher in child and family practice. Her current role is practice lead for children and families at Life Without Barriers.

Jessica is the co-founder of Family Inclusion Strategies in the Hunter, which is a parent and family led organisation based in Newcastle, New South Wales. In 2016, Jessica was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to explore family inclusive initiatives in child protection and out-of-home care in Norway, Canada, America and the United Kingdom.

Jessica's research and practice interests include conceptualising, building and implementing family inclusive practice initiatives in the interests of children, including peer parent and family advocacy, relational permanence for children and parent and family leadership.



**Dr Sara McLean**  
Psychologist, SA

Dr Sara McLean is a registered psychologist and member of the Emerging Minds' content development

team. Sara also runs a private practice and consultancy in the areas of child protection, disability and developmental difference, and children with challenging behaviours.

Sara has published widely on the support needs of children with developmental difference arising from disability, prenatal and early life adversity, and trauma. Sara is also the author of the 'Fostering Difference' website and materials, and the book, 'Parenting traumatised children with Developmental Differences' (Jessica Kingsley Publishers).

Sara was awarded the Association of Commonwealth Universities Linacre Fellowship at Oxford University in recognition of her critical analysis of the out of home care system, and her work supporting children in care.



**Rebecca**  
Child and Family Partner

Rebecca is a mother who has had her children removed due to addiction. She turned her life around and her children are

back in her care.

Rebecca feels that the system often sets parents up to fail and that their policies and implementation methods are sometimes punitive in nature. Rebecca feels the system is "child focused" and believes it should be more "family focused" to keep families together as often as possible.

Children aging out of or still within the state care system can often have poor outcomes and Rebecca sees the importance of working with families in a rehabilitative way.

Rebecca believes that the system should hold child safety as their first priority and family rehabilitation as a close second. In order to achieve this, Rebecca believes we should do all that we can to encourage parents to do what it takes to rehabilitate and reunite their families



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

Dan Moss has been Manager, Workforce Development at Emerging Minds for three years.

Previously he 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.

Prior to that, Dan worked for Uniting Communities for fifteen 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's PhD thesis included research on approaches to men's behaviour change programs and a creative writing component.