

A Forum on Childhood Trauma:  
Approaches to Working with Children and Families  
Experiencing Trauma in the Northern Territory

**When:** Thursday 23 May 2013

**Where:** Novotel, Darwin

**Time:** 8.30am – 4.00pm

*Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided*

**Aim:** The forum seeks to consider the impact of trauma or toxic stress on children and their families, particularly in the NT. The forum will highlight some of the innovative and developing responses currently being delivered in the local context. It will provide an opportunity for professionals working in the area to connect with relative programs and providers and share promising practice. Three key areas will be explored by the following keynote speakers:



**Dr Howard Bath**

***Howard Bath-The characteristics of a trauma informed care environment.***

Dr Howard Bath has been the NT Children's Commissioner since June 2008. In his current role he has a particular focus on the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable children and families. In 2010 he was co-chair of an Inquiry into the child protection system in the NT which produced the *Growing them Strong, Together* report. He has a long history as a practicing Clinical Psychologist, agency director, trainer and researcher in child and family services.



**Dr Sarah Mares**

***Sarah Mares – The importance of relationships in infancy and early childhood: Risks, Resilience and Approaches to Prevention and Intervention after Trauma.***

Dr Sarah Mares is a child and family psychiatrist and Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Child Development and Education, Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin. Dr Mares has particular interest in early relationships, parenting interventions and therapeutic work with high risk infants, young children and their families.



**Sharron Williams**

***Sharron Williams - Sharing best practice and promising directions when responding to trauma & meeting the needs of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children, young people and their families.***

Sharron Williams is a Narungga/Kaurna woman who has been the CEO of Aboriginal Family Support Services (AFSS), the peak Aboriginal child welfare organisation in South Australia, since 1998. Sharron has also served on the SNAICC national executive since 1998 and was elected Deputy Chairperson - Child Welfare in May 2011. In November 2012, she was elected interim Chairperson of Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care Inc. (SNAICC).

Time	Theme	Speaker
8.30 – 8.45	Welcome to country and open forum	
8.45 – 9.30	<b>Keynote Presentation-</b> “The Characteristics of a Trauma Informed Care Environment”.	Dr Howard Bath
9.30 – 10.30	<b>Keynote Presentation-</b> “The Importance of Relationships in Infancy and Early Childhood: Risks, Resilience and Approaches to Prevention and Intervention After Trauma”.	Dr Sarah Mares
10.30 – 10.50	Morning Tea	
10.50 – 11.20	<b>Local Snap Shot Presentation-</b> “It Takes A Forest to Raise a Tree: Healing Our Children from the Storms in their Lives”. (Children’s Therapeutic Team, Relationships Australia, NT)	Lucy Van Sambeek Elaine Tiparui & Patricia Munkara
11.20 – 11.50	<b>Local Snap Shot Presentation</b> – “Building Safety, Comfort and Connections: Using Play, Dance Movement Therapy and Other Creative Approaches to Support Refugee and Asylum Seeker Children and Families on their Healing Journey”. (Melaleuca Refugee Centre)	Alexandra Jordan
11.50 – 12.30	<b>Workshop</b> – NT issues and questions for discussion with the panel	
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch	
1.30 – 2.30	<b>Keynote Presentation-</b> “Sharing Best Practice and Promising Directions When Responding to Trauma and Meeting the Needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, Young People and their Families”.	Sharron Williams
2.30 – 3.00	<b>Local Snap Shot Presentation</b> – “A Trauma Counselling and Support Service for Children, Young People and their Families in Remote Aboriginal Communities of the NT”. (Mobile Outreach Service Plus)	Erin Hiesley
3.00 – 3.15	Afternoon Tea	
3.15 – 4.00	<b>Panel Discussion</b> – Dr Howard Bath, Dr Sarah Mares and Sharron Williams (panel members)	Facilitated by Josie Crawshaw
4.00	Close	