

CONFERENCE ABSTRACT

TITLE: *WORKING WITH OFFENDERS BEING AGGRESSIVE*

Working with offenders being aggressive can be potentially confronting and challenging for direct service practitioners, line managers and the organisation as a whole.

This interactive one training day session provides participants with an opportunity to build on their existing knowledge and skills in working with offenders being aggressive as well as reflect on the impact that offender's aggression can have on staff and organisations. Participants will be provided with a range of practical tools and approaches for mapping and managing aggressive behaviour in community corrections settings.

The training is based on the principle that working with offenders being aggressive can be conceptualised as a 'piece of work' encountered within the human service sector. This work comprises both familiar and unique challenges for the practitioner and organisation, similar to other areas of work within this sector.

The training aims to enable practitioners to achieve effective outcomes when working with an offender behaving aggressively by strengthening their;

- understanding of anger and aggression;
- practical strategies and skills for working with aggressive behaviour;
- ability to self-reflect; and,
- professional response to the challenges of face-to-face work with offenders being aggressive.

The topic areas covered in the training day include:

- an overview of anger and aggression;
- mapping the types of aggressive behaviour experienced within community corrections settings;
- mapping the aggression process of offenders;
- models and practical strategies for managing offender's aggression and potentially aggressive situations; and,
- identifying the impact of offender aggression on the workforce and strategies for practitioner self-care.

PRESENTERS:

Stephen Wilson and **Constance Karametos** are Senior Consultants with the Education and Research Unit of the Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS), a state-wide Victorian youth alcohol and other drugs service.

Stephen Wilson **Senior Education and Research Consultant**

Diploma in Community Services Alcohol and Other Drugs Work, Certificate 4 Workplace Trainer and Assessor

Stephen has over 20 years experience working in the human service sector across a range of government and community-based organisations. This has included positions within direct service, management, research, policy development and workforce training.

He is recognised in the sector for developing innovative practice and service system responses in the areas of male sexual assault, cultural diversity, homelessness, alcohol and other drugs, and sport and recreation. Stephen has a strong commitment to utilising practical approaches for providing responsive services to clients.

For many years Stephen has conducted workforce training for services in the Victorian adult and youth human service sectors. He has also undertaken international workforce training projects in Thailand and Laos PDR.

Stephen is the author of a number of formative publications including: *Boys Don't Cry...working with sexually abused young men* (Victorian Department of Human Services, 1992), and *Sport: creating a level playing field increasing the participation of young people from ethnic communities in sport* (Sport and Recreation Victoria and Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues, 1998).

Constance Karametos **Senior Education and Research Consultant**

Bachelor of Social Work, Post Graduate in Health Promotion and Education, Certificate 4 Workplace Trainer and Assessor.

Constance has over 17 years experience in the Victorian health and community service sectors. She has an extensive understanding of the needs of workers in these sectors from her experience within direct service and management in custodial and community based settings. Her experience includes managing a community residential withdrawal unit as well as a long-term residential alcohol and other drug rehabilitation service.

Constance is recognised for her high level of expertise in the areas of staff supervision, critical reflection of workforce practice and service development.

For many years Constance has conducted workforce training for both government and community based services in the Victorian adult and youth human services sectors.

I would like to present at the PACCOA Conference: *Domestic Violence – Fear is not the only consequence* by:

- facilitating a *Working with Offenders being Aggressive* one-day training workshop on 26 October 2007, as professional development training for practitioners.

AUDIO VISUAL REQUIREMENTS:

- data projector and computer with CD / DVD capability
 - external speakers
 - screen
- white board and markers

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