

WORKING WITH SEPARATED FATHERS

Ross Fletcher is Senior Project Worker with UnitingCare Burnside Men in Family Relationships Program and has operated the Fathers' Support Service at Parramatta for almost a decade. Over this time he has seen many changes in the way Fathers are viewed in society and how services are developed to deal with the specific needs of men in families. Fathers have evolved in the community, many recognise the need for support, advice and education outside of their usual sources e.g. work, family, friends. They seek quality professional services that are inviting to them to engage.

As workers in order to help Fathers fulfil desired potential we need to understand men and how they see support and how they can appreciate the benefits to be gained for themselves and their children. A generational shift is occurring across Fathers of all ages many are making brave decisions to become the Father they want to be to their children.

Parents separating can be the catalyst to the change yet it can become an opportunity new relationship with their children which is more positive and rewarding. Fathers seeking help for the first time can be filled with mixed feelings, thought and behaviours which are unfamiliar to them. The approach needs to be met with understanding, yet the behaviour needs to be addressed with honesty and directness.

What to expect from the training:

- Understanding the help seeking behaviour
- Making a meaningful connection in engaging Fathers
- Gaining cooperation from Fathers
- Responding to a Fathers grief
- Being OK with open emotions
- Gender issues

Who is the training for:

This training is for workers who encounter Fathers in their current work or who are interested in working with Fathers. This may include group workers, counsellors, legal people, child protection workers and advocacy situations.

Cost (GST inclusive): \$132.00

Code	Dates	Location
WWM 4	Thursday 22 May 2008	Level 6, 146 Marsden St Parramatta
WWM 9	Thursday 4 September 2008	Regional

Time: 9.30am to 4.30pm

To Register:

Obtain an application form for this training, visit www.ifp.nsw.edu.au or email info@ifp.nsw.edu.au or call 02 8830 0755

