

Feedback from Working cooperatively with separated fathers – Wagga Wagga, Friday 19th November 2010

Feedback from the end of course evaluation form

		Course feedback	Percentage
No. of participants			
Length in days		1	
No. of completed evaluations		23	
Expectation?	Yes	18	78%
	Partly	5	22%
	No	0	0%
Level of training	Too High	0	0%
	Just Right	21	91%
	Too Low	2	9%
Facilitators Attitude - Poor	1	0	0%
	2	1	4%
	Okay	3	13%
	4	5	22%
	Great	5	14%
Facilitators Knowledge - Poor	1	0	0%
	2	0	0%
	Okay	3	13%
	4	5	22%
	Great	5	16%
Way the workshop was run - Poor	1	0	0%
	2	1	4%
	Okay	3	13%
	4	6	26%
	Great	5	11%
Handouts	not enough	2	9%
	Ok	7	30%
	very useful	11	48%

Key outcomes

- 78% of participants thought the workshop *achieved what they expected*.
- 91% of the participants thought the workshop was pitched at the right level.
- 83% of participants reported the facilitator's attitude was *very good to great*.
- 92% of participants reported the facilitator's knowledge of the subject was *very good to great*.
- 74% of participants reported the way the course was run was *very good to great*
- 48% of participants who completed evaluations reported the handouts were very useful

Qualitative feedback

Has the training program covered what you expected? If partly or no, why?

- Not in-depth enough. Good nitro but shallow content.
- Hard to know – too rushed.
- Like to see more role-play to dealing with men focused on blame.
- Perhaps too idealistic in regards to men's attitude.

What topic/issue has been the most important for you?

- How men need straight forward talk and instruction. Engagement during intake is essential.
- The use of generative fathering topics in relation to the support of their children.
- How to encourage/facilitate change.
- Working effectively with men.
- How to engage angry fathers.
- Practical answers and strategies. The blame game.
- The strength-based approach to working with separated men in conflict.
- Learning about what fathers say and what they are actually thinking – gave me a better understanding.
- Language, engaging with practical examples.
- Engaging dads.
- Ways to challenge beliefs in a non-confronting way. Child focused.
- Points to remember when dealing with separated men.
- How to effectively communicate with men in separation and understand the underlying behaviour.
- How to respond.
- Anxiety.
- Blame workshop – excellent.
- All has been relevant.
- Discussion on how to diffuse conflict/blame.
- Diffusing.
- Identifying blockers that disempower men. Acknowledging their situation, offering advice/solutions where possible.
- Appropriate responses to men, generative care.

What topic/ issue has been the least important for you?

- N/A
- All topics/discussions relevant.
- N/A
- None.
- None.
- None.
- Cannot think of any.
- What was unhelpful – I have had clients who have said 'May I have a tissue please?' – I disagree not to have them in the room.
- The more theoretical, generative stuff.
- Feelings – as a counsellor already aware of feeling types.

What impact will this training have on your work?

- Utilised and strengthened knowledge base on working with separated Dads.
- Will have an extreme and beneficial impact on my ability to support future fathers increase their capacity to focus on and support their children.

- Some new insights/tools in my working with men in family mediation.
- Raise awareness of emotional context for separated fathers and provide some strategies to define.
- Able to converse appropriately with Father's without over stepping boundaries or getting too personal.
- Better understanding of where men (separated fathers) come from and greater skills in addressing their issues/concerns effectively.
- Would love to incorporate the model of child focused parenting (with reference!) into our pre-mediation education seminar.
- Impact on professional and personal life!
- Excellent.
- Use more relational language e.g. not 'ex', 'mother'
- Reinforce how to engage.
- Improved ability.
- I will try to be more direct and mindful of possible blockers.
- Implement practical ideas/changed focus.
- Helpful – we do a lot of work with men.
- This workshop is a very good course that covers a range of issues and responses from the facilitators and participants were excellent.
- I feel I will be more reflective plus more energised (again).
- It will definitely help me to know appropriate ways of working with men. It is also useful evaluation of my practice.
- Terrific refresher and add ideas to all those curve-ball questions dads can throw at you .
- Improve my knowledge on some of the skills in working with separated fathers.
- Understanding other services available in our area. Using them for referral.

Any other comments about the training course

- Very helpful. It's great to have a workshop targeting fathers and acknowledging this area needs more attention and better equipped support workers.
- It was grouse!
- Well presented, relaxed and informative.
- The best one yet!!
- More focused on the realities of the children involved i.e. happy with dad when mum not around is likely to be because they aren't scared of her being hurt by dad.
- Great subject matter – enjoyed interaction.
- A little more 'blame' game type activities.
- Venue awful. Sitting sideways all day not motivating.
- Should be less course and more workshop. i.e. less presentation and more activity.
- A wonderful opportunity to access well-put together and very relevant material. Thanks once again.