

Institute of Family Practice Faculty Staff

The Institute of Family Practice (IFP) employs a professional and experienced team that provide administrative, organisational and management expertise and commitment to the development and running of high quality professional qualifications and professional development courses for people working with children, young people and families.

The Institute of Family Practice employs trainers for our professional qualifications who have great depth of experience, skill and knowledge in counselling and family dispute resolution and are currently practicing practitioners.

IFP Trainer Profiles

Brett Acworth *Graduate Diploma Couple and Family Therapy, Diploma in Education*
Brett Acworth works as a counsellor in the Adolescent and Family Counselling and Mediation service of Unifam. He has many years experience working with young people and their families in a range of contexts including residential youth work and counselling. Amongst other qualifications Brett has completed Diploma in Education and Graduate Diploma in Couple and Family Therapy.

David Bailey *Bachelor of Social Studies, Diploma of Family Therapy, Cert IV Workplace Training and Assessment*

David Bailey holds qualifications in Social Work, Family Therapy and Workplace Assessment and Training. He has worked in the counselling industry since 1984 in a variety of government, private and non-government settings and has presented numerous papers at national Family Therapy and Social Work conferences. David works as a family and couple therapist and has also provided professional training and supervision to counsellors since 1992.

Annette Bex *B.A. Youth Welfare Work; Grad Dip Play Therapy; Grad Cert Expressive Therapies; Grad Cert Child Centred Play Therapy Skills*

Annette Bex has completed a post graduate diploma in Play Therapy (Netherlands). She has been using Therapeutic Play in a variety of settings including Hospitals, daycare for children with special needs, regular daycare and residential care. Her experience stretches over a period of 20 years. Annette currently works as a Coordinator in a community based therapeutic program for parents and their young children called NEWPIN (NEW Parent Infant Networking).

Rita Barrett *Grad Dip Couple Therapy, Grad Dip Family Therapy*

Rita is a social worker who worked in the community sector for over 10 years before becoming a counsellor. Rita works with families, adolescents, couples and individuals. Currently she works as a Family Therapist. She has also conducted group work programs.

Kath Blake *Grad Dip Couple & Family Therapy*

Kath is a therapist and clinical supervisor with a Graduate Diploma in Couple & Family Therapy and 15 years experience, working in a variety of clinical settings including experience with child protection issues, alcohol and other drugs and trauma related issues. She has worked clinically as therapist and supervisor with individuals, couples and families and is currently Manager of the Unifam Parramatta Office. She is a Senior Clinical Supervisor for the Parenting Orders Program, working with highly conflictual parents and their children post- separation. Kath has a Certificate 1V in Assessment and Workplace Training and has been training for Unifam since 2004.

Prior to this she taught at TAFE, training students in counselling/case management skills and specialising in counselling skills for alcohol and other drugs workers.

Ron Burgess

Ron has over 25 years experience working in the community service sector and specialises in community development. His diverse range of experience within this particular sector includes, established and managing a community centre, with this activity including operating a drop in centre, a community food and clothing bank, a community training program, a community counselling service and facilitating community service sentences, in association with the local court.

As a community developer Ron has facilitated in association with the local community, a wide range of community development activities, all specifically designed to improve the quality of life within the community of focus. This has included working specifically with youth, with this area of community work including leading a youth organisation that saw between 300 to 500 young people regularly attend specific youth related events and provide ongoing youth leadership development training program.

Ron has worked closely with the Indigenous community, travelling with Indigenous Elders to local Aboriginal communities. Working with community, he has facilitated a number of Indigenous specific events. As a trainer Ron has taught extensively in the area of leadership development, personal potential, project management and work skills development. In this capacity he has worked cross culturally, providing leadership training to community leaders through an interpreter.

Natalina Cannon *B.A., Grad Dip Psychology, Dip Individual, Couple and Family Therapy, Clinical Supervision*

Natalina is currently employed with Unifam as an Individual, Couple and Family Therapist. She has experience in Clinical Intake and is a Clinical Member of CAPA. She has previous experience as a telephone counsellor with Lifeline.

Susan Chapman *B. Social Science*

Susan has over 12 years experience working in the Welfare sector. She has worked in the areas of Domestic Violence, Abuse Prevention, Family Support and Out of Home Care. She has worked as a trainer, caseworker, team leader and coordinator in these various fields. She is interested in seeing young people have an improved OOHC experience and successful transition to independence. Susan is the Coordinator of UnitingCare Burnside's ACE AfterCare Program in the South West Sydney and Southern NSW Region's. She has been with the program since 2003. ACE AfterCare supports young people who have been in OOHC to transition to independence.

Annette Coleman *B.Sc., B.A.*

Annette has worked as a social worker for over 20 years and works with families, children and young people. Annette has been involved in writing many of UnitingCare Burnside's parent training manuals. In addition Annette holds a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training.

Andrea Cotter-Moroz *LLB (Hons); Grad Dip Legal Practice; M.Ed (Adult); Cert IV Community Mediation*

Andrea is a Barrister at Law and ADR Practitioner. She has been training Family Dispute Resolution practitioners with IFP for several years.

David Foster *B.Soc.Studies; M.B.A.; Cert IV Workplace Training and Assessment*

Anne Heath *BA, MA (Cultural Psychology) Narrative Studies*

Anne has over twenty years experience in the Welfare sector working in positions including; training, counselling, direct care, coordination and management. Her career has involved a great deal of staff development, staff training and performance management. She has had extensive training in Narrative and Strengths-based ways of working and has implemented these ideas into a diverse range of programs.

Cassie Howse *MAPS, Bsc, MA (Psych)*

Cassie is a registered Psychologist specialising in Couple and Family Therapy with over 13 years experience. Cassie has worked as a therapist and clinical supervisor for Unifam and in private practice. Cassie predominantly trains in the areas of Couple and Family Therapy, working with children and young people as well as clinical supervision.

Helen Jukes *B.A./LLB, Grad Dip Legal Practice, R.A. Mediation Course, UniS.A. Mediation*

Helen has a legal background, and worked for 13 years as a conciliator and mediator at the Family Court as a member of the Courts initial pilot project and later in the Mediation Unit in the Melbourne Registry. Helen joined Unifam as a mediator in 2001 and has been a trainer with IFP since 2004. Helen has been responsible for delivering and presenting various courses for FDRP's at IFP relating to mediating in the Family Law context and mediation Framework.

Patricia Kiely *M. Clinical Psych, Clinical Psychologist, Registered Psychologist*

Patricia Kiely was the Manager of the Family Work Program at UnitingCare Burnside for over 15 years. She is a clinical psychologist with extensive experience working with children and families in a variety of community and health settings. She is a leading practitioner of Family Group Work. In addition Patricia holds a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training.

Andrew King *B.A., M.Ed.Adult Ed*

Andrew King has extensive experience in training and in working in clinical and community based group work settings. Until recently he was the coordinator of UnitingCare Burnside's Fathers' Support Service. In addition Andrew holds a Certificate IV in Workplace Assessment and Training.

Martine Langoulant *B.Social Work; Cert IV Workplace Training and Assessment*

In 1989 Martine graduated from the Tasmanian State Institute of Tasmania (now University of Tasmania) with a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. Over the past 20 years she has worked in a variety of health and welfare delivery settings, with an emphasis in the last 13 years on Family Support work including case management, counselling and group work.

In 2004 Martine commenced some private practice work delivering a training package she designed on the topic of Worker Self Care which she delivers to staff in the community welfare sector. Martine currently works for UnitingCare Burnside as the Facilitator of a Volunteer Program supporting families with young children. She also designs and delivers training for Burnside and the Institute of Family Practice.

Nandy MacKinnon *B.SW., Grad Dip Conflict Resolution*

Nandy graduated with a Social Work Degree from Sydney University in 1987 and has worked both in Hospital and nongovernment settings providing counselling and advocacy to families in need. She has completed a Graduate Diploma in Rehabilitation Counselling 1996 and a Graduate Diploma in Conflict Resolution in 1996 from Macquarie University. She has worked as an Accredited Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner since 1996 with Unifam, mediating disputes with separated families in relation to children and property issues. She obtained a Certificate 1V in Training and Assessment in 2003.

Nandy has provided supervision and training both internally to Unifam staff and externally to graduates of the Certificate 1V in Mediation. She has also been involved in developing and training the core competencies of the Graduate Diploma in Family Dispute Resolution, which is a six month intensive course including over 15 hours of face to face supervised mediation.

Sandra Martel *B.A. (Psychology), Masters Couple and Family Therapy*

Sandra Martel is a qualified family therapist who has been working in the field for over 10 years. She currently works at Unifam Counselling and Mediation service as a supervisor, family therapist in the Options program working with families and adolescents and as a Keeping Contact Consultant working with separated couples who are highly conflicted over contact arrangements for their children. Sandra has led training in the family therapy field for the past 4 years.

Katy Mercer *B.Ed. ;Grad Dip Soc Sc: Counselling; M.Ed. Adult Ed.; Cert IV Workplace Training & Assessment*

Katy is an experienced trainer with qualifications in counselling, mediation and adult education. She worked at the University of Sydney as a Senior Trainer Career Development, Director of the Staff and Student Equal Opportunity Unit and Manager Harassment and Discrimination Resolution and has also worked in other large organisations as a workplace counsellor and mediator. She is currently Manager Training and Development at IFP.

Greg Pankhurst *M. Psych, Dip Individual, Couple and Family Counselling*

Greg Pankhurst is a registered psychologist and holds a Masters degree in Psychology and a Diploma in Individual, Couple and Family Counselling. Greg has over 12 years experience in counselling. In this time Greg has worked in a number of settings with many presenting issues including traumatic stress, workplace issues and relationship difficulties. Greg's work has included management, training and a wide variety of clinical work.

Brigitte Regnaut *MAPS BA/BSW, Grad Dip in Science [Psychology], Dip Individual, Couple and Family Therapy*

Brigitte is a Social Worker and Psychologist who works for Unifam and in private practice. She has had 20 years experience working with children, young people, individuals, couples and families. Prior to joining Unifam 5 years ago, Brigitte worked in Disability Services and in Sexual Assault. She has expertise in groupwork and in child inclusive practice. Brigitte migrated from France 24 years ago. The experience fostered a special interest in cultural identity and belonging and their subsequent impact on individuals and families.

Lisa Robinson *B.Sc (Honors), Masters in Couple and Family Therapy*

Lisa is currently Regional Coordinator (Campbelltown) with Unifam. She has over 15 years experience as a counsellor.

Megan Solomon (MAPS), B.A. (Hons. Psych.), Masters in Couple and Family Therapy

Megan Solomon is a Psychologist with a Masters Degree in Couple and Family Therapy. She has been working as a systemically trained Family Therapist in a number of relationship focused organisations over the past 17 years. She has worked clinically as an Adolescent / Family Therapist; Individual and Couple Therapist and with highly conflictual parents and their children post-separation. She also has experience in child protection and working with children and young people in Out of Home Care. Megan has been a Trainer and Clinical Supervisor within Unifam for more than 10 years.

Margaret Tucker B.A., Diploma of Family Therapy, Cert Clinical Marital Therapy, Grad Dip Group Facilitation, Clinical Member CAPA

Margaret is currently Senior Clinical Supervisor with Unifam. She has over 16 years experience providing therapy to individuals, couples and families. She has previously worked in training and group facilitation with the Institute of Counselling.

Lucia Vitali Registered Psychologist, Masters Degree in Psychology

Lucia is currently Regional Coordinator (Penrith) with Unifam. She has over 12 years experience providing therapy to individuals, couples, and families in various contexts including government, non-government and private practice. She is an Honorary Associate of the Division of Linguistics and Psychology (Macquarie University) and provides supervision for intern psychologists.

Denise Warner Bachelor of Counselling, Diploma Individual, Couple and Family Therapy, Cert Holistic Counselling

Denise Warner is a Family Therapist with a Bachelors Degree in Counselling. She also holds a Diploma in Individual, Couple and Family Therapy and Certificates in Holistic Counselling. Denise worked at Unifam for six years in a number of roles and until recently was working clinically in the Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Team (Options) and the Individual Couple and Family Program (FRC). Denise has completed a course in Clinical Supervision, the Certificate IV in Assessment and Workplace Training and Working Therapeutically with Post-Separated Families and Working Therapeutically Children from Post-Separated Families. Denise has also run personal development courses with groups and individuals.