

Expected Outcomes for Participants

- » Delegates will learn the dynamics of mind control: how it is induced, how it is maintained, what the after-effects are likely to be.
- » Delegates will learn to differentiate between mind control and other forms of manipulation.
- » Delegates will learn how to give advice to families who have loved ones in cults, including topics such as: how to communicate with the cult member, how to handle finances, where to get help, how to maximize the chances of helping the cult member leave the cult.
- » Delegates will learn the best interventions for helping victims of cults, before, during and after their involvement.
- » Delegates will learn how to conduct psychotherapy with former cult members, including similarities and differences between therapeutic work with former cult members and other clients/patients.
- » Delegates will learn to distinguish between symptoms that are the result of cult involvement and those that have other etiologies.
- » Delegates will learn how to give practical advice to former cult members to help them move on with their lives.
- » Delegates will learn preventive measures that can be taken by a free society to help lessen the likelihood that people will fall victim to manipulation, mind control and destructive cults.

Who Should Attend?

Psychiatrists, Psychologists, GPs and Health Professionals, Counsellors, Social Workers, Politicians, Clergy/Pastors, Support Workers, Students, Ex-Members and Family.

www.cifs.org.au

Topics Covered

- » *Psychological Manipulation and Trauma*
- » *Mind Control and other dynamics of Cults and High Demand Groups*
- » *Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment Modalities*
- » *Working with PTSD and Trauma related Symptomatology*
- » *Working with Cult-involved Families*
- » *Educating the public and parents*

Dates and Location

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia – 9–10 March 2012

Parliament House

Parliament House is located at the corner of George and Alice Streets and is within easy walking distance of the Brisbane CBD. You can also catch a bus to Parliament House. There are also numerous public car-parking stations within the CBD.

**CIFS Qld Conference: Hosted at Parliament House by Kate Jones, MP Ashgrove*

Conference Hours

- » Registration and sign-in begins at 8:00 am on Friday 9 March 2012
- » The conference begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 5:00 pm each day
- » Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided each day

Conference Program and Further Information

Learn more about the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) at: www.icsahome.com

Details regarding Professional Accreditation will be available on the CIFS Website: www.cifs.org.au

Cult Information and Family Support

Queensland Inc

National Conference

The Trauma of Psychological Manipulation: Recognition of and Responses to Victims and Survivors of Destructive Groups and Cults

9–10 March 2012

Parliament House, Brisbane, Qld - Australia



www.cifs.org.au

Why Should I Register?

In November 2000, the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade noted an estimation of approximately 500,000 people across Australia having current involvement in cults. No estimate of the population of former members was noted.

Psychological manipulation/mind control is one of the most misunderstood and deeply hidden societal problems. Victims of these groups often suffer tremendous psychological, emotional, social and financial loss for themselves and for loved ones. Individuals who have been victims of coercive persuasion and thought reform in destructive groups such as cults, typically present with a range of symptoms and disorders common to survivors of severe trauma (including acute anxiety, panic attacks, PTSD, depression and psychosis). Programs of coercive persuasion can both create and exacerbate symptoms.

Survivors seek and need mental health professionals who understand the kind of manipulation and deception that they have endured. Family members need mental health professionals who can help them make sense of their experience of loss and the change in their relationships with their loved ones.

In this timely, two-day conference, attendees will learn the skills they need to assess and treat victims of thought reform, and how to address the issues with loved ones. The conference will address the psychological after-effects of cultic abuse and trauma.

Participants will acquire a broad background of knowledge of coercive groups and manipulating, controlling relationships through presentations by international experts and participation in practical workshops.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MANDY MORGAN and DR KERRY GIBSON will present their study entitled:

'A different kind of family: Retrospective accounts of growing up at Centrepoint and implications for Adulthood'

The study was published in March 2010 by Massey University, New Zealand and reveals the impact of commune life on children and its ongoing effects on their adult lives.

More conference and speaker biographical information is available from the CIFS website at: www.cifs.org.au

Meet The Presenters

ADJUNCT PROFESSOR WARWICK MIDDLETON

MB BS, FRANZCP, MD., holds appointments as Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, La Trobe University and Associate Professor in Psychiatry, University of Queensland. He has made substantial and ongoing contributions to the bereavement and trauma literatures. In 1996 he was a principal architect in establishing Australia's first dedicated unit treating dissociative disorders (the Trauma and Dissociation Unit, Belmont Hospital). He has been in full time private practice since 1995. In 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD). Dr Middleton recently served on the ISSTD committee revising the treatment guidelines for dissociative identity disorder. He is co-editor of a special issue of the Journal of Trauma and Dissociation concerned with global perspectives on oppression and dissociation.



PROFESSOR DONI WHITSETT

Clinical Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work. Doni has a private practice and has worked with cult-involved families and former members for over 15 years. Dr. Whitsett is on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Cultic Studies Journal, published by ICSA, where she has been a member since 1990. She has presented on various aspects of trauma and cults both nationally and internationally and trains mental health professionals in Los Angeles on the psychological after-effects of cultic abuse and trauma.



LORNA GOLDBERG

President of the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA), is a psychoanalyst in private practice and Dean of Faculty at the New Jersey Institute of Psychoanalysis. Lorna and her husband Bill, started a support group for former members in New York in 1976. The group is still operating, 34 years later. Lorna joined ICSA's Board of Directors in November 2003 and became President of ICSA in 2008.



WILLIAM GOLDBERG

a psychoanalyst in private practice, retired from the Rockland County (NY) Department of Mental Health, where he was the Director of Training and Staff Development and where he directed several outpatient clinics and treatment programs. Bill is presently an Adjunct Instructor in the Social Work Department of Dominican College. He is also the ICSA Today's Mental Health Columnist.



ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MANDY MORGAN,

Associate Professor in Critical Psychology and Head of School at the School of Psychology at Massey University, New Zealand. Mandy is involved in a research programme in the area of domestic violence services and interventions. She has also been involved with researching the experiences of adult children from the Centrepoint community.



DR KERRY GIBSON,

a senior lecturer in clinical psychology at the University of Auckland. She has considerable experience of working clinically with both adults and children who have experienced trauma. Her research has focused on the effects of trauma on individuals and organisations and she has published a number of academic papers and two books in related areas.



SENATOR NICK XENOPHON

first became involved in politics in the 1997 South Australian election, where he campaigned on a 'No Pokies' platform. Nick made the decision to leave state politics and run in the November 2007 Federal Election. Since assuming his role in the Senate in July 2008, Nick has continued to push for changes in the key areas of gambling reform and the water crisis. He has also exposed the disturbing issues surrounding cultic abuse in Australia. Senator Xenophon believes the most important part of his job is speaking up for people who might not otherwise have a voice. His approach to politics is perhaps best summed up in his First Speech in the Senate when he simply said: I would rather go down fighting, than still be standing because I stayed silent.



SENATOR SUE BOYCE

was elected by the Queensland Parliament in April 2007 to fill a casual vacancy in the Commonwealth Senate and was elected in her own right at the Federal election in November 2007. She holds an Honours degree from Monash University and a Masters of Business from the Queensland University of Technology. Senator Boyce is a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs, which is conducting a number of inquiries, including Mental Health and Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices. Senator Sue recently joined the Board of the Griffith Institute for Education Research.

