



Queensland Counsellors Association Inc
Member Association of Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia

Friday 3 April 2009

SHARING REFLECTIONS AND LEARNINGS ON DISENFRANCHISED GRIEF

Presenter:
Neil Wiseman

Disenfranchised grief has been defined as the grief that people experience when they incur a loss that is not or cannot be openly acknowledged, publicly mourned or socially supported.”(Doka 1989 Disenfranchised Grief: Recognizing hidden sorrow)

The literature and counsellors evidence reports situations where unacknowledged grief intensifies emotions of anger, guilt, shame and powerlessness which is often misunderstood and misinterpreted thus isolating people from meaningful help and support.

Neil will share his learnings and insights gained at a professional workshop in 2008 presented at Princess Alexandra Hospital on Disenfranchised Grief by Annie Cantwell - Bartl from the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement. Neil will explore the reality and impact of parallel processes impeding awareness of disenfranchised grief when counselling clients as he notices that counsellors also can misinterpret symptoms client’s present.

Neil and his colleague and business partner Sonia Lonne have conducted a private counselling practice “Interact Counselling Services” in Browns Plains for the past seven years. Prior to this Neil was a counsellor, supervisor, trainer, manager and domestic violence group facilitator with Relationships Australia for 21 years where , he together with Sonia Lonne co wrote and delivered two accredited training modules on working with prevention of domestic violence.

It is from his current general practice experience with his clients that Neil will share thoughts and discoveries on working with Disenfranchised Grief and consult other QCA member’s experiences.

WHERE: Room 15, Endeavour College of Natural Health (formerly Australian College of Natural Medicine), 362 Water Street Valley – Plenty of parking – Drive in from Water Street up the driveway to the end of the main building, turn left into car park beside Room 15

WHEN: 5.00pm Friday 3rd April 2009. Enjoy light refreshments, including wine, juice and snacks and a chance to meet, talk and network with other counsellors from 5.00pm. Topic presentation starts 5.45pm and concludes at 7.00pm

COST: \$15.00 incl GST for QCA and PACFA members - \$20.00 incl GST for non-members. Payable at the door.

R.S.V.P.: Please advise if you are attending before Wednesday 1st April to qca@qca.asn.au

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