

2016

Grief & Loss SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday 13th July 2016

At



350 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150



Minimum 3 CPD hours



Welcome and Symposium Introduction

The Symposium Organising Committee invites you to attend the Grief and Loss Symposium being held on the 13th July 2016. The theme for the symposium is

The Grief and Loss Experience of People with Intellectual Disability

Grief is a natural response to loss. It may be the loss of a loved one, a relationship, a home or even a way of life. The more significant the loss, the more intense the grief is likely to be. Many people do not know how to offer support, or what to say when trying to acknowledge a loss, it is difficult to know what you can do to comfort someone with an intellectual disability that is grieving.

This full-day symposium offers a unique professional development opportunity, bringing together a diverse range of speakers with expertise on how to support people with intellectual disability, and their families, as they learn to live with loss.

We look forward to the keynote address,

Grief and Loss: No Taboo; Michele Wiese of Sydney University

The Symposium will launch a newly developed resource for professionals and direct support workers needing comprehension aides to support communication about bereavement for people with intellectual disability.

The National President of the Angelman Syndrome Association, **Anne Funke**, will share her personal experience as a parent and the journey of her son with Angelman Syndrome providing insight into the grief experience of parents and families, both immediately and in the long term. This will be followed by a local presentation providing information on the common loss process occurring in chronic sorrow and helpful tips for navigating the grief experience of parents and families.

We are very excited about this event and look forward to welcoming you on 13th July 2016.



From left to right

Ben Fulham, Chris Laurie, Susan Green, Chadi A.Wahab, Jeremy Nusco, Connie Li, Susan Knight (absent)

Start	Finish	Program
9.00am	9.30am	Registration and Morning Tea
9.30am	9.45am	Welcome to Country Kerri Kenton
9.45am	10.45am	Keynote Grief and Loss : No Taboo Dr Michele Wiese
10.45am	11.45am	“The Bereavement Experience of People with Intellectual Disability: The Importance of Supporting Communication. A Practice Guide for Supporting People with a Disability.” Mei Yee Lee – Senior Speech Pathologist ADHC and Ellie Marrone – Speech Pathologist/Behaviour Support Specialist
11.45am	12.15pm	Grief and Bereavement Case presentation Helen Goltzoff - Speech Pathologist, ADHC
12.15pm	1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm	1.45pm	The Family Perspective Anne Funke
1.45pm	2.45pm	Chronic Sorrow
2.45pm	3.15pm	Case Discussion: Theory to Practice Connie Li – Senior Psychologist, Cerebral Palsy Alliance
3.15pm	3.30pm	Close and Evaluations

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr Michele Wiese

Biography

Doctor Michele Wiese is a psychologist and special educator who has worked in the disability sector for over 30 years. Michele's work has always aimed to achieve a strong marriage between research and practice. She has been a long-standing advocate in the disability field and her experience has spanned accommodation, supported employment, education, and aged care services, and has included clinical roles, staff training and management, and process and outcome evaluation. She has worked with people with intellectual, physical, sensory and psychiatric disability, as well as families, educators, and allied health professionals.



Currently, Michele manages the Australian Research Council *Dying to Talk Project* (2013-2016) <http://sydney.edu.au/health-sciences/crdp/projects.shtml> at the University of Sydney and also coordinates the Master of Health Science Developmental Disability course, *Positive Behaviour Support: Promoting Quality of Life*. Michele also assists the Chair Intellectual Disability Behaviour Support Program at UNSW Australia. Michele is on the editorial board of two international scientific journals, sits on the executive committee of the Australasian Society for the Study of Intellectual Disability (ASID) NSW Division, and is the current chair of two Restricted Practices Authorisation Panels in Sydney and the Hunter Valley.

Abstract: Grief and Loss: No Taboo

Like all of us, people with disability experience grief and loss. To not attempt to understand, acknowledge and honour the experience is to perpetuate the taboo that shrouds grief and loss in our society.

This presentation will define grief and loss, how it is experienced, and the consequences of not openly acknowledging its presence. The presentation will briefly describe common theories about grief and loss, and use case studies and practical examples to illustrate how family, friends and caregivers can support a person with disability who is experiencing grief and loss.

An argument for the potential health-giving outcomes of enabling the experience of grief and loss will be presented.

The Bereavement Experience of People with Intellectual Disability: The Importance of Supporting Communication.

A Practice Guide for Supporting People with a Disability.



Mei Yee Lee (Senior Speech Pathologist) and **Ellie Marrone** (Speech Pathologist/Behaviour Support Specialist) will present an overview of the resource “The Bereavement Experience of People with Intellectual Disability: The Importance of Supporting Communication” developed jointly by the speech pathologists at ADHC Fairfield Community Support Team and the ADHC Behaviour Support Team.

This package has been developed as a practice guide for direct support workers and professionals who are supporting an individual with a disability to understand their grief experience.

The package delivers a framework to help workers conceptualise the impact of grief on an individual with a disability and identify their specific needs at the time. It also includes a practical component with a checklist of communication resources with examples and templates that can be adapted and personalised for use with individual clients throughout the grief experience, including preparatory support strategies for before a loved one’s death.

Grief and Bereavement Case presentation

Helen Goltzoff - Speech Pathologist, ADHC is presenting two case studies exploring two very different approaches towards grief, loss and bereavement for people with an intellectual disability.



The case studies present a comparison between a person who is compassionately and inclusively supported through their bereavement experience, and an individual who is not. She highlights the positive and negative outcomes of each approach for the person, their surrounding support networks and their lives moving forward. Helen also integrates communication resources from “The Bereavement Experience of People with an Intellectual Disability’ package to demonstrate how an individual with an intellectual disability may be supported when experiencing a loss.

A family journey of living with disability, grief and loss

Anne Funke is married with 2 children including her 19 year-old son, Mitchell who has a rare genetic syndrome called Angelman Syndrome. She is a working carer, a qualified social worker and a disability carer advocate, campaigning to improve the experiences of other carers.



Mrs Funke is the past national president and is currently the NSW state representative of the Angelman Syndrome Association of Australia. She has also held the role of P&C president at Caroline Chisholm Special School at Padstow for a 10 year period and now remains on the school council committee for that school as a community representative.

Anne will be discussing her lived experience, as a carer of a young adult with Angelman Syndrome, and as a service recipient, experiencing grief and loss.

Anne's perception and experience allows attendees to see the personal element associated with grief and loss. This presentation will demonstrate the importance of today's content when supporting a person with an intellectual disability with grief and loss.

Anne will relate elements of grief and loss to behaviour, to show the different ways in which people with an intellectual disability journey through grief and loss. Also some of the labels which can be associated with people with an intellectual disability who use behaviour to communicate their emotions during this journey.

Through this Anne will identify factors or events which could cause grief and loss and will discuss some barriers, hurdles or negative experiences she has experienced.

Anne's presentation will enable service providers to reflect on their services and adjust according to the needs of their clients and customers.



Chronic Sorrow

Case Discussion – Theory to Practice

Connie Li

Senior Psychologist, Cerebral Palsy Alliance

Connie is a psychologist who works with families with complex needs with a focus on positive behaviour support. Natalina is a Case Manager in the Clinical Practice Team at ADHC's Quality and Reform Unit.

The presentation acknowledges the difference between how the parents expected the world to be, and how it is – but how it is constantly changing. No sooner do parents adjust to one reality, than they have a new situation to adjust to. Some of these new situations are difficult, some are wonderful, but all represent a difference between what the parents hoped for and what they actually experience and all involve adjustment to thoughts, to behaviours, and to emotions.

At each stage of life, there is a new meaning of the disability – a new milestone not reached, a new experience not encountered, a new loss to grieve. The presentation will talk about the loss and grief associated with having a child with a disability, and see if we can get some extra insights into what is going on for these families. Hopeful it will give us some ideas about how best to work with them and implications of our work on families.

Register here: <https://griefloss2016.eventbrite.com>

If you need an invoice prior to payment email the registration form to
symposium@thejunctionworks.org.au

Cost \$20

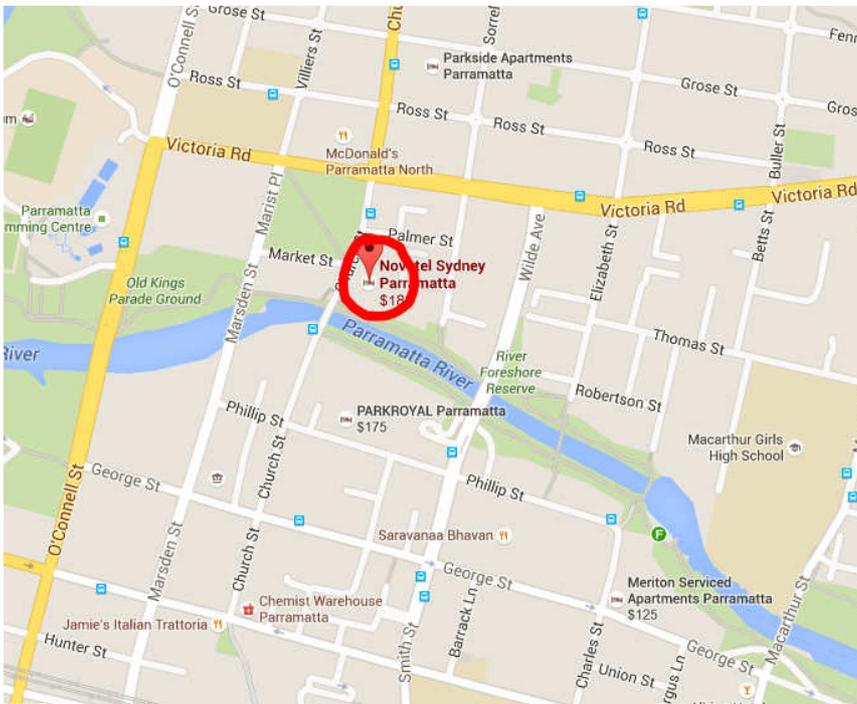
Early Bird closes 30/6/2016

Full Fee \$40

HOW TO GET THERE

Novotel Parramatta

350 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150



Driving:

On-site Parking is available for \$8 all day, just remember to get your parking ticket stamped on your way out. There are other paid parking options but they are priced considerable more than the onsite parking option.

Public Transport

The Novotel Parramatta is a short walk from Parramatta Train station up Church St.

Parramatta City Council provide a free loop bus that stops at the train station and runs a continuous loop around Parramatta business district, the closest stop to the Novatel is the Prince Alfred Park Bus stop which is just 150 meters from the Venue, just look out for the green bus and jump on board.

[Parramatta free shuttle map](#)

REGISTRATION

IF YOU REQUIRE AN INVOICE **PRIOR TO PAYMENT** PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL ATTENDING AND FORWARD TO symposium@thejunctionworks.org

NAME:

ORGANISATION:

ORGANISATION CONTACT:

MOBILE PHONE:

EMAIL:

DO YOU HAVE ANY DIETARY REQUIREMENTS?

YES

NO

Details

DO YOU HAVE ANY ACCESSIBILITY OR SPECIAL SEATING REQUIREMENTS?

YES

NO

Details

DO YOU REQUIRE A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER?

YES

NO

