



Child Protection Practitioners

Association of Queensland Limited 1 September 2011 – 31 August 2012

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Practice Paper Series

PO Box 12056 Brisbane George Street QLD 4003

www.cppaq.com.au

Tuesday, 24 July 2012

Topic: "Being Unaware of Being Unaware: Childhood Trauma and the Multiple Dimensions of Dissociative Processes"

This CPPAQ Practice Paper will begin by outlining the patchy progress in understanding the traumas that so frequently shape the development of the growing child. It will include a brief history that will incorporate the early identification of dissociative processes and 'multiple personality disorder', the progressive awareness of dissociation's traumatic causation, and the beginnings of serious research on incest/the battered child/attachment dysfunction. This will bring us to the modern history of the dissociative disorders field along with an analysis of the various controversies, advances and errors associated with this challenging area of practice and research. The paper will profile:

- the controversy concerning dissociation, particularly in the lay press.
- typical abuse histories and symptoms experienced by individuals with Dissociative Identity Disorder
- emerging areas of contemporary research
- current best practice in respect to the assessment and treatment of individuals in this spectrum
- the difficulties the legal system has had in handling the individual with DID

Finally, the presenter will offer some thoughts on:

- understanding and responding to the individual parent with DID in a child protection context, particularly with respect to risks of harm to children; and
- understanding and responding to individual children whose child protection histories may suggest a vulnerability to developing DID.

About our presenter: Dr. Warwick Middleton MD, MB BS, FRANZCP is an internationally acclaimed psychiatrist, researcher, educator and writer in the field of child abuse/trauma. He was a principal architect in establishing Australia's first dedicated unit treating dissociative disorders (the Trauma and Dissociation Unit, Belmont Hospital) operating since 1996. He 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 and with Dr Jeremy Butler, authored the first published series in the Australian scientific literature detailing the abuse histories and clinical/phenomenology of patients fulfilling diagnostic criteria for Dissociative Identity Disorder. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry and is a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Trauma and Dissociation. In 2008 he was elected a Fellow of the International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation (ISSTD). He is also Chair of the Cannan Institute and a member of Adult Survivors of Child Abuse (ASCA) Advisory Panel. Dr Middleton is a member of CPPAQ.

Venue: To be announced

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 pm

Cost: Free for members or \$30 one off attendance