

2ND AUSTRALIAN POSTVENTION CONFERENCE

"CONNECTEDNESS: A LINK TO HOPE"



REGISTRATION & CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MELBOURNE EXHIBITION /
CONVENTION CENTRE
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

21 – 23 MAY 2009

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS	Thursday, 21 May, 2009
WELCOME	Thursday, 21 May, 2009
2 DAY CONFERENCE	Friday and Saturday, 22-23 May, 2009
CONFERENCE DINNER	Friday, 22 May, 2009
SEPARATE STREAM FOR BEREAVED	Saturday, 23 May, 2009
REMEMBRANCE & HEALING CEREMONY	Saturday, 23 May, 2009

FEATURING INTERNATIONAL
KEYNOTE PRESENTERS AND
EMINENT AUSTRALIAN SPEAKERS

CONFERENCE THEMES

- Children & Youth
- Men
- Rural and Remote

PRESENTATIONS RELATING TO THE THEMES

- Bereaved people and families
- Professionals
- Indigenous issues
- Postvention related service delivery

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR EXPRESSIONS
OF INTEREST, CONTACT THE CONFERENCE
MANAGER AT:

The Hotel Network

Po Box 5580, West Chatswood
NSW 1515 Australia

Phone (02) 9414-4978

Fax (02) 9411-4243

Email postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au

www.hotelnetwork.com.au



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing





AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

It is a great pleasure for me on behalf of Salvation Army Suicide Prevention – Bereavement Support Services and as Chair of the Conference Organising Committee to invite your participation at the 2nd Australian Postvention Conference, “Connectedness: A Link to Hope”.

We are indebted to the Commonwealth Department of Health & Ageing who have given generous support to this conference.

This conference will bring together family and friends who have been bereaved by suicide; the indigenous, teachers, young people, mental health professionals, general practitioners and medical personnel, clergy, emergency services, researchers, service providers and funeral service personnel.

On Saturday, 23 May, a separate stream is dedicated to those bereaved by suicide. A healing/remembrance service will also be held on that day.

The “Connectedness: A Link to Hope” Conference provides a wonderful opportunity for delegates throughout Australia and New Zealand to network and share together their experience and knowledge.

We are privileged to have international guests and invited Australian speakers who are well known in Australia and internationally for their research and practice in postvention.

We look forward to you joining us in Melbourne at the 2nd Australian Postvention Conference. This is a conference you should not miss!

Yours sincerely,

Alan Staines (Envoy) OAM, OF

Chair, Conference Organising Committee
Director, Salvation Army Suicide Prevention – Bereavement Support Services
National Secretary, Suicide Prevention Australia



A MESSAGE TO DELEGATES

Every person needs to feel part of a community. Through the communion of values, aspirations and hopes, a shared story and inheritance each one of us is helped to understand who we are and where we fit in. For reasons we can't fathom, let alone imagine, there are individuals for whom there is no communion and for other once present communion breaks down irrevocably. Life loses its purpose.

For the family, suicide is devastating, leaving behind unanswered questions and mixed feelings. But not only are those close to the person affected. Doctors and nurses feel the loss; they can feel as if they have failed; they may feel guilty. Police officers, teachers, ambulance officers, railway workers, lawyers, work friends, employers – the ramifications can be very wide – all can be affected and need support.

Whole communities can be affected: a country town, a workplace, a school, a service organisation, a sporting club - many close-knit communities. The communion is forever broken.

The 2nd Australian Postvention Conference will be about how our society can support those bereaved by suicide. Their needs range from emotional and personal support, advice and assistance to the much needed practical help – around the home, funeral arrangements, legal advice, and so on.

Bereavement by suicide is one of the priority areas of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. The LIFE framework describes the importance of this approach and Fact Sheet 19 provides a readily accessible reference for what to do when someone has died from suicide.

Beyond the immediate help there is the even more important task to create a society in which the risks of suicide are reduced to an absolute minimum. This means communities that are supportive and resilient.

The major obstacle to overcome is the poor understanding of the pervasive and important role that mental health plays in our society. Australia needs a more sophisticated appreciation of the mind and mental processes and how these processes influence almost every aspect of our health and well-being.

The key message being that the prevention of suicide cannot be left to mental health professionals alone, but is everyone's business.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Webster AO

Emeritus Professor of Community Medicine and Public Health, UNSW
Chair, Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Council

INTERNATIONAL AND AUSTRALIAN INVITED SPEAKERS



Frank R. Campbell, PhD, LCSW, CT. Dr Campbell serves as Senior Consultant for Campbell and Associates Consulting, LLC and as Executive Director of the Crisis Center Foundation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA. He conducts a private practice in forensic suicidology and for 19 years, Dr Campbell served as Executive Director of the

Baton Rouge Crisis Intervention Centre. He is a past president of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) and was the first recipient of the John W. Barton Sr. Fellow award for excellence in non-profit management. Both Frank and his wife Cheryl received the Roger J. Tierney award for service by AAS in 2001. Dr. Campbell has authored or co-authored numerous articles and book chapters relating to Suicidology. He has conducted hundreds of national and international presentations and has appeared in three Discovery Channel documentaries highlighting his Active Postvention Model, the LOSS Team (Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors). Frank is also completing his book “The Canyon of Why: Metaphors for healing from sudden and traumatic loss”.



Michelle Linn-Gust, PhD, is an international author and speaker about suicide prevention and postvention issues. She is the author of “Ginger’s Gift: Hope and Healing Through Dog Companionship”. Her first book, “Do They Have Bad Days in Heaven? Surviving the Suicide Loss of a Sibling”, inspired siblings around the world in their survival

after a loved one's suicide. She served as the Survivor Division Chair for the American Association of Suicidology (AAS) and the editor of the AAS publication Surviving Suicide. She also was a co-chair of the International Association for Suicide Prevention's Postvention Taskforce and co-created and edited its postvention task force newsletter. Among her current projects, she is the editor of www.bereavedbysuicide.com, the first international resource for survivors of suicide.

INTERNATIONAL AND AUSTRALIAN INVITED SPEAKERS CONTINUED...



Dr Sheila Clark is a general practitioner who has worked in the area of suicide postvention for over 20 years. She co-facilitated the Bereaved Through Suicide Support Group in Adelaide. She has undertaken research, teaching, publications and clinical work in suicidology. She has contributed to various state, national and international committees concerned with the support of people bereaved through suicide. In 2001 she was awarded the Farberow Award of the International Association for Suicide Prevention for services to postvention. For many years, Dr Clark was Senior Lecturer in the Department of General Practice at the University of Adelaide where she directed the Graduate Grief Program and developed various tools to assist general practitioners in the care of bereaved patients. She is currently engaged in private practice as a grief, bereavement and trauma counsellor and is studying theology part-time.



Kari Dyregrov is a doctor in sociology from the University of Bergen, Norway. Since 1995, she has been working as a researcher of traumatic bereavement, and has conducted several research projects including grief reactions and self-help strategies in bereavement, social network responses to traumatised people, organisation of psychosocial assistance in the community, and ethical and methodological aspects of research on adverse life-situations. Since 2005, she has also researched at The National Institute of Public Health in Oslo where she is taking part in a large-scale psychological autopsy study on suicide, as well as writing national guidelines for survivors of suicide. Her research led her to commence the Norwegian Association for Suicide Survivors. In Killarney 2007, she received the Farberow Award for her work. She has been lecturing nationally and internationally, and has written many papers, book chapters and some books. Kari and her husband Atle Dyregrov's book, "Effective Grief and Bereavement Support" was published in English in August 2008.



Dr Scott Poland is a current Faculty Member and Coordinator of the Suicide and Violence Prevention Office at NOVA Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr Poland is a nationally recognized expert on school crisis, youth violence, suicide intervention, self-injury, school safety, threat assessment, parenting, and the delivery of psychological services in schools. He has led multiple national crisis teams following school shootings and suicides, and has assisted schools and communities after terrorism acts. He has received many honours and awards as a school psychologist, including the Houston Wage Peace Award. He has lectured and written extensively, has appeared on national television, and has made over 1,000 national and international presentations. He served on the President's Roundtable on Youth Violence and on three occasions has testified about the needs of children before the U.S. Congress. Dr. Poland is a founding member of the National Emergency Assistance Team for the National Association of School Psychologists and serves as the Prevention Director for the American Association of Suicidology.



Prof. Onja Grad serves at the University Psychiatric Hospital of Ljubljana, Slovenia, as a psychotherapist and supervisor for individual and family therapy, especially for those bereaved by suicide. Since 1980, she has led the first Slovenian crisis line. Onja is a past vice-president of the International Association of Suicide Prevention (IASP) and the current president of the Slovenian Association for Suicide Prevention (SASP). She has published a manual for caregivers after suicide of their client. Since 2003, she has been the Editor-in-chief of the SASP journal. For 20 years, Onja has worked with suicide survivors in different settings. She received the first IASP Farberow Award (1997) in recognition of her work in suicide bereavement. At the Medical School, University

of Ljubljana, Onja teaches crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and postvention. She has edited and published articles and book chapters, conducted workshops, and in 2000, Onja chaired the Organizing and Scientific Committees for the 8th European symposium on suicide. With colleagues, Onja commenced a new centre for counselling people in distress.



Judith Murray, BA(Hons), DipEd, BEdSt, PhD, MAPS, is currently the Director of the Master of Counseling Program at The University of Queensland. She has been involved for over 20 years in the area of loss and grief. Previous to her present appointment she established a Loss and Grief Unit at the Centre for Primary Health Care in the Department of School of Population Health at The University of Queensland. This collaborative effort involved community resource development and education, training for professionals, research, grief counseling, and post-graduate education in loss and grief. Within her research, teaching and extensive community education work she has advanced the broad use of a concept of loss and integrative frameworks of care following adverse life events across the health, welfare and educational sectors. She is the author of numerous papers and books and training resource packages.



Darrell Henry has worked as a psychologist for over 20 years, predominantly in the areas of drug and alcohol abuse, aboriginal family violence, and child sexual abuse. Darrell's aboriginal grandmother country is with the Wunmulla people from the Canning Stock route in Desert Western Australia. Darrell was co-founder of the Yorgum Aboriginal Family Counselling Service (established 1994), and served as Manager and Clinical Director for four years. Darrell was a panel member on the 2002 Inquiry into Response by Government Agencies to Complaints of Family Violence and Child Abuse in Aboriginal Communities, and a member of the advisory committee for the 2007 Prudence Ford Structural Review of the Western Australia (WA) Department for Community Development. He is a former Deputy Chair of The WA Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection. Darrell currently works as a clinician in Warmun, Broome and Narrogin, all in WA, and continues to train lay aboriginal community people in working clinically with chronic trauma.



Professor Graham Martin is Director of Child Psychiatry, The University of Queensland, and Clinical Director, RCH Child and Youth Mental Health Services. Suicide in young people has been a major focus of his research activity and life since 1987. Graham was chair of SPA for 6 years, member of the Board National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy (1995-2000), member of the writing team for the LiFe Strategy (2000, revised 2006), and was member of the National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention until 2008, when he was appointed The National Advisor in Suicide Prevention to the Australian Government. A member of the Expert Advisory Group for the Queensland Government Suicide Prevention Strategy, he chairs the Statewide Mental Health Promotion, Prevention and Early Intervention subgroup. He has over 100 peer reviewed professional publications and is co-editor of several books concerned with the prevention of mental health problems. Graham was made a Life Member of Suicide Prevention Australia in 2004. received the Medal of the Order of Australia, 2007. He does over 70 invited lectures a year on mental health and suicide prevention in young people.

HOST ORGANISATION



The Salvation Army has been providing a wide range of community services to disadvantaged people in the Australian community for over 100 years. Salvation Army services operating in over 900 centres across Australia provide counselling and active practical support designed to meet the needs of people who are alienated in society because of poverty, homelessness, health issues, dependency issues, unemployment and/or experiencing personal crisis.

Many of those the Salvation Army assists are affected by mental illness and significant numbers face situations that lead them to contemplate and attempt suicide. Our work also brings us in regular contact with members of the Australian community whose lives have been devastated by the suicide of someone close to them.

The Salvation Army was the first organisation in the world to establish suicide prevention programs.

The programs developed through the Salvation Army Hope for Life Suicide Prevention and Bereavement Support Services will enhance The Salvation Army's ability to bring advice, support, comfort and hope to those 'at risk' of suicide and those bereaved as a result of suicide.

REMEMBRANCE AND HEALING CEREMONY

The Postvention Conference Healing and Remembrance Ceremony will be held on Saturday afternoon. The Ceremony is a unique event that is the heart of the conference and provides an opportunity for individuals, families, friends and conference delegates to come together in strength, light and community to share and be supported in our grief as we honour and remember our loved ones and connect through Living Hope.

Human life is described as a spider web: 'If you touch it anywhere, you set the whole thing trembling – The life that I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows when the trembling stops or in what far place and time my touch will be felt. Our lives are linked. No man or woman is an island.'

This Conference: "Connectedness: A Link To Hope" provides a wonderful opportunity for the bereaved by suicide together with the Conference delegates to come together to support each other remembering there is **Hope** and **YOU ARE NOT ALONE**.

TRADE EXHIBITION

The trade exhibition will form an integral element of the conference.

To acknowledge the trade exhibition's importance, the program has been structured to ensure delegates have ample time to inspect the displays. Organisations interested in participating in the trade exhibition should contact the Conference Managers immediately.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

1. Provide support, information and opportunities for networking and collaboration between postvention researchers, practitioners and those bereaved by suicide.
2. Contribute to an evidence base and knowledge.
3. Facilitate efforts to promote the need for suicide bereavement services and other issues relevant to the needs of people bereaved by suicide at community, state, national and international levels.
4. Provide opportunity to advocate for the voice of those bereaved by suicide.

WHY ATTEND?

To learn, network, advocate, support and advise in hope of reducing suicide by supporting those bereaved by suicide and minimising the harm through the loss of a loved one through suicide.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Those bereaved by suicide (families, friends and associates)
- Education: teachers, school counsellors
- Carers
- Juvenile Justice
- Crisis intervention workers
- Correctional Services
- Mental health professionals
- Human Service organizations
- Clergy, pastoral care workers, spiritual advisers
- Policy writers
- Service providers (Psychiatrists, General Practitioners, Psychologists, Social Workers, Clinicians / Counsellors, Youth workers, Aged care workers)
- Local Government
- Funeral services
- HR & workplace managers
- Police / emergency services personnel
- Researchers

2ND AUSTRALIAN POSTVENTION CONFERENCE PROVISIONAL PROGRAM: "CONNECTEDNESS: A LINK TO HOPE"

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY 2009

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

8:30 - 12:30 Morning workshops (select one)

Workshop 1	Standards and Best Practice for suicide bereavement support groups
Workshop 2	Critical response after suicide
Workshop 3	Living Hope Suicide Bereavement Training Program
Workshop 4	Crisis management: Suicide loss in schools

13:30 – 17:30 Afternoon workshops (select one)

Workshop 5	Spirituality, healing and faith – their importance in postvention work
Workshop 6	Bereavement in adolescents and children
Workshop 7	Responding to the suicide of a client
Workshop 8	Indigenous perspectives: Surviving and healing

18.00 - 20.00 WELCOME RECEPTION

FRIDAY, 22ND MAY 2009

7.00 Registration

8.30 Conference opening

Welcome to Country

9.00 Session 1 – Plenary Prof Ian Webster (Australia) / Prof Graham Martin (Australia) / Dr Kari Dyregrov (Norway)
Keynote Presentations:

10.30 Morning Tea & Trade Exhibitions

11.00 Session 2 - Concurrent (six streams)

12.30 Lunch / Trade Exhibitions / Poster sessions

13.30 Session 3 – Plenary Dr Frank Campbell (USA) / Mr Darrell Henry (Australia) / Dr Scott Poland (USA)
Keynote presentations:

15.00 Afternoon Tea and Trade Exhibitions

15.30 Session 4 - Concurrent (six streams)

17.00 Close

19.00 – 22.00 CONFERENCE DINNER - Auctioneer and compare: Dr Frank Campbell

SATURDAY, 23RD MAY 2009

8.00 REGISTRATION

8.30 Session 5 - Plenary Dr Sheila Clark / Dr Michelle Linn-Gust (USA) / Prof Onja Grad (Slovenia) / Dr Judith Murray
Keynote presentations:

10.30 Morning tea and Trade Exhibitions

11.00 Session 6 – Concurrent workshops
STREAM 1 – RESEARCH / PRACTITIONER
Concurrent 1 ½ hour workshops
Dr Scott Poland / Dr Sheila Clark / Dr Judith Murray

STREAM 2 – BEREAVED BY SUICIDE
Concurrent 1 ½ hour workshops
Darrell Henry / Dr Michelle Linn-Gust / Dr Frank Campbell

12.30 Lunch / Trade Exhibitions / Poster sessions

13.30 Session 7 – Combined panel discussion and questions from the floor Facilitator: Professor Graham Martin
International and Australian presenters Organisation and bereaved representatives

15.00 Afternoon tea

15.30 – 16.45 BEREAVED BY SUICIDE HEALING and REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION GENERAL INFORMATION

FULL-TIME REGISTRATION

Includes admission to all sessions and trade exhibition, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea, the conference dinner, and a satchel containing the conference material.

DAY REGISTRATION (FRIDAY OR SATURDAY)

Includes admission to sessions and the trade exhibitions on the nominated day, morning and afternoon tea and lunch on that day only, and a satchel containing the conference material. The conference dinner is not included in the day registration fee, but a ticket to attend the conference dinner on Friday evening may be purchased.

PAYMENT

All prices are in Australian dollars and include GST. Cheques or drafts must be in Australian currency drawn on an Australian bank and free of all charges. Payment by credit card is also acceptable. Faxed registration forms are acceptable only if payment is by credit card, and full card details are provided. Payment must accompany your registration form; conference registration cannot be confirmed until payment is received. Payment must be received by the due date to receive any applicable discount otherwise the next level of payment will be charged.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS

Cancellations must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat. Cancellations received before **21 April, 2009**, will incur a \$55.00 administration fee. No refund will be given for cancellations received after this date, however, an alternative delegate from the same organisation may attend at no additional charge.

IMPORTANT DATES

THURSDAY, 19TH MARCH, 2009

Deadline for abstracts/submissions

THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2009

Presenters notified of acceptance of abstracts

THURSDAY, 16TH APRIL, 2009

Early bird registration closes

TRADE EXHIBITION

The trade exhibitions will form an integral element of the Conference. To acknowledge the importance of the trade exhibitions, the program has been structured to ensure delegates have ample time to inspect the displays. Organisations interested in participating in the trade exhibition should contact the Conference Secretariat immediately.

CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF REGISTRATION AND OF DINNER PLACE

All registrations will be receipted prior to the Conference. Please ensure that your details are correct for receipt.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

A certificate of attendance will be available if required, at the conference registration office on site.

DRESS CODE

The dress standard for the conference is neat casual attire.

MESSAGES

A message board will be located outside the conference office.

DISCLAIMER

This brochure outlines the proposed conference content, however, this may be subject to some adjustment and change.

METHODS OF REGISTRATION

Register by email	postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au
Register by fax	(02) 9411 4243
Register online	http://www.hotelnetwork.com.au/
Register by post	Conference Manager, The Hotel Network PO Box 5580, West Chatswood NSW 1515

Additional information

Contact Alan Staines at alanstaines@optusnet.com.au or by phone on **0412 164 575**; or visit website www.hotelnetwork.com.au for further information and conference updates.

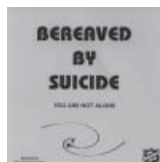
HOST ORGANISATION

The Salvation Army Suicide Prevention – Bereavement Support Services. Board Members:

- Envoy Alan Staines - Director
- Ms Wilma Gallet - Project Manager
- Major Ruth Bailey
- Mr John Cleary
- Ms Yvonne Dewar
- Major David Eldridge
- Ms Fay Foster
- Col. Miriam Gluyas
- Mr Wayne Koivu
- Capt. Paul Moulds
- Mr Gary Raymond
- Major Cec Woodward

Conference Committee Members:

- Mr Alan Staines (Chair), OAM, OF, Salvation Army
- Ms Susan Beaton, Lifeline Australia
- Ms Elizabeth Benson-Stott, Better Life Directions
- Dr Dagmar Ceramidas, Suicide Prevention Australia
- Ms Jill Fisher, Standby - United Synergies
- Ms Leonore Hanssens, Suicide Prevention Australia
- Ms Sharon Hillman, ARBOR, Curtin University & TICHR
- Mr Chris Killick-Moran, Dept of Health & Ageing
- Mr Colin Nelson, Dept of Health & Ageing
- Ms Kathy Leader, Support After Suicide Program, DOFM
- Ryan McGlaughlin, Suicide Prevention Australia
- Dr Diana Sands, Bereaved By Suicide Service, Salvation Army
- Ms Wendy Sturgess, Crisis Support Services





CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

"CONNECTEDNESS: A LINK TO HOPE"

Salvation Army Suicide Prevention
Bereavement Support Services

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY TO SATURDAY, 23RD MAY, 2009
MELBOURNE EXHIBITION / CONFERENCE CENTRE

Tax Invoice
ABN: 57 507 607 457

Online registration is available at www.hotelnetwork.com.au

Please complete a separate form for each person attending, and send conference registration form with payment details and any attachments, to:

Conference Manager, The Hotel Network, PO Box 5580, West Chatswood NSW 1515
Phone (02) 9414 4968 Fax (02) 9411 4243 Email postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS: THURSDAY, 21 MAY, 2009

Workshop fees are for full day attendance.

	AUD	Amount Paid \$AUD ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop – Delegate rate	\$220.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop – Concession rate – Pens / Stud Concession**	\$110.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop – Bereaved concession	\$ 65.00	\$ _____

Please select one morning and one afternoon workshops that you will attend:-

- Morning** Workshop 1 Workshop 2 Workshop 3 Workshop 4
- Afternoon** Workshop 5 Workshop 6 Workshop 7 Workshop 8

CONFERENCE: FRIDAY, 22 & SATURDAY 23 MAY, 2009

Morning/afternoon tea and lunch are included in the registration fee. The Conference Dinner is included in the 2-day registration fee.

	AUD	Amount Paid \$AUD ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference – 2 days – full fee*	\$550.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference – 2 days (if received by 16/04/09)*	\$495.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference – single day rate	\$250.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference – 2 days Pens / Stud concession***	\$340.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference single day rate – Pens / Stud concession**	\$140.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference – 2 days – Bereaved concession*	\$250.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Day 2 only – Bereaved concession	\$ 65.00	\$ _____

(Day 1 single-day, not available). *Includes conference dinner.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Conference Dinner** (cost included in full fee registration) \$60.00 \$ _____
- Extra person for dinner** – Name: _____ \$60.00 \$ _____
- Healing / Remembrance Ceremony**

TOTAL \$ _____

10% Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been included in the above Australian dollar fees

NOTE**

Concessions are only given to full time students, pension card holders, beneficiaries and unemployed people. Please attach evidence (eg. photocopy of pension card or student card) of concession/beneficiary status, to the registration form.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INFORMATION FOR PRESENTERS

Submission of abstracts closes at close of business, Thursday, 19 March, 2009. Presenters will be advised in writing of the acceptance of their abstract by Thursday, 9 April, 2009.

Conference abstracts will be based on at least one of the following themes, and relate to at least one of the following presentation areas. Abstracts that do not clearly relate to the conference themes and areas will not be considered.

THEMES	Presentation areas relating to the themes:
CHILDREN & YOUTH	Bereaved people, their families, and associates
MEN	Indigenous bereavement
RURAL AND REMOTE	Professionals Postvention related service delivery

The preferred method of abstract submission is online at www.hotelnetwork.com.au. Follow the links to the Postvention Conference 2009, call for abstracts. This link also contains instructions to presenters.

The abstract submission template is available online following the above links and should be used when preparing your abstract for submission, regardless of the method of submission.

ABSTRACT CONTENT

The purpose of the abstract is to define the precise themes of the presentation for potential inclusion into the conference program.

Posters and resources for suicide bereavement will be presented in poster sessions. All authors are expected to be in attendance at their posters during the scheduled times for questions.

SUCCESSFUL PRESENTERS

Successful presenters are expected to pay and register either for the full program or for the day of their presentation.

Additional information regarding presentations will be sent after 9 April to the principal presenter of all accepted abstracts

ENQUIRIES

Enquiries regarding the submission of abstracts can be made to Postvention Conference 2009, The Hotel Network, PO Box 5580, West Chatswood NSW 1515. Telephone: (02) 9414 4968, Facsimile: (02) 9211 0392, Email: postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRESENTERS

1. The abstract title, in bold Arial, 10-point font, full-justified, should be short, informative and contain the major key words.
2. Abstract titles should be followed by author's first then last names. Presenting author to be in bold, left justified. Do not include degrees or professional titles (eg Dr, Prof). Superscript numbers must be used for reference to institution. Institutions to include city, state, postcode and country (in that order).
3. Do not use abbreviations in the title or the body of the abstract. Abstracts must not exceed 200 words.
4. An abstract must contain sufficient information so that if published, it will be a complete report independent of presentation. The text should not contain statements alluding to results or conclusions not presented within the text. An abstract should not contain figures, literature references, grant acknowledgments, etc.
5. The margins are to be 2cm, top and bottom, left and right.
6. The presenting author is required to submit a brief biosketch (up to 100 words). Biosketches may be published in conference literature.
7. Compliance to the above specifications is imperative - any abstract that does not comply with these specifications will not be accepted for review.
8. Where online submission is not possible, abstracts may be submitted via e-mail, using the **abstract submission template**, to postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au. For e-mail submission, type "Postvention Conference 2009" in the subject heading, and write your name and abstract title in the body of the e-mail.
9. Where neither online nor electronic submission are possible, one hard copy of the abstract, prepared using the **abstract submission template**, together with the presenter's full contact details, may be posted to:
**The Postvention Conference 2009,
The Hotel Network, PO Box 5580,
West Chatswood, NSW 1515**
10. Please note that abstracts and presenter biosketches may be published in conference materials.



2ND AUSTRALIAN POSTVENTION CONFERENCE 2009 – MELBOURNE CONNECTEDNESS: A LINK TO HOPE

ONLINE REGISTRATION available at www.hotelnetwork.com.au

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Please reserve me a room with the following configuration:

- Single Room Double Room Twin Room
 Smoking Non-smoking Disability Access

For instant accommodation booking options please view the conference manager’s website www.hotelnetwork.com.au. All accommodation booked from this form is NOT guaranteed.

ACCOMMODATION OPTIONS

Crowne Plaza Melbourne, Adjoining Conference Venue **(From\$245.00 per night)**

Vibe Hotel Savoy, 630 Little Collins Street**(From \$205.00 per night)**

Batmans Hill on Collins, 623 Collins Street **(From\$176.00 per night)**

Riverside Annex Apartments, Cnr Flinders & Highlanders Ln – Apartment Style **(\$175.00 per night)**

Riverside Apartments, Cnr Flinders St & Highlanders Ln – Apartment Style **(From\$208.00 per night)**

Atlantis Hotel, 300 Spencer Street Melb **(From\$130.00 per night)**

Travelodge Southbank, 9 Riverside Quay **(From \$159.00 per night)**

Hilton Melbourne South Wharf, 21 - 37 Lorimer Street Melbourne **(Open April 2009)**

Clarion Suites Gateway, 1 Williams Street Melbourne (Please go to www.clarionsuitesgateway.com.au to book)

City Centre Budget Hotel, (Please go to www.citycentrebudgethotel.com.au to book)

Check in date: _____

Check out date: _____

No of nights: _____

I wish to twin-share with: _____

Room reservations must be accompanied by a deposit equivalent to one night’s accommodation. You are of course welcome to fully prepay if you wish. In the case of bookings made with your personal credit card, your details will be passed on to the hotel to guarantee the booking. If your organisation is paying by credit card on your behalf, please indicate the amount to debit.

LIFEKEEPER MEMORY QUILT PROGRAM

The Hope for Life Lifekeeper Memory Quilt Program will be launched at the conference. The Lifekeeper Memory Quilts serve as a creative outlet for survivors' grief as well as a touching, visual reminder of so many who were lost to suicide. By putting a 'face' on suicide, these quilts help carry the message that preventing suicide is not just about lowering statistics, but also saving the lives of mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters across the nation.

Hope for Life Quilt organisers will help co-ordinate and create Lifekeeper Memory Quilts. The goal is for each state and territory in Australia to have a quilt available for presentation at the quilt display at each biannual Australian Postvention Conference.

The pain of losing a loved one to suicide is difficult to express and is only made worse by the barriers to public understanding. People know that suicide is a problem but still cannot fully comprehend how it affects every community in the country. The public still cannot put a face to suicide, and cannot imagine how many of their friends and neighbours have been touched by such a tragedy. Sometimes words are simply not enough to help them understand. Bereavement support groups throughout Australia will be assisted in creating the Lifekeeper Memory Quilts.

The creation and display of Lifekeeper Memory Quilts provide both a creative outlet for grief and powerful visual representation of the staggering losses our country suffers as a result of suicide.

I DON'T KNOW WHY

by Iris M. Bolton

I don't know why.

I'll never know why.

I don't have to know why.

I don't like it.

I don't have to like it.

What I do have to do is make a choice
about my living.

What I want to do is accept it and go on living.

The choice is mine.

I can go on living, valuing every moment
in a way I never did before,
or I can be destroyed by it and,
in turn, destroy others.

I thought I was immortal.
That my family and children were also.
That tragedy happened only to others.
But I know now that life is tenuous
and valuable.

So I am choosing to go on living,
making the most of the time I have,
valuing my family and friends
in a way never possible before.

LETTER FROM A BEREAVED PERSON

As a person bereaved by suicide, I care about others going through their own nightmare and believe we need as much support as possible. Words on paper can seem an insignificant and arrogant attempt to ease the intense, gut wrenching emotions you may be trying to cope with, but this is my humble attempt.

Surviving this was a roller coaster ride of steep climbs and scary corners and descents that just crept up on me and left me breathless and shaking. I was so afraid. I was choking on something totally alien to me. I felt so alone even with family and friends. How could we be there for each other when so much hurt and anger lay in the air.

I really needed someone to listen to my endless retelling, my tears, my pain as I talked about the one I had lost. I knew nothing was going to bring him back, but I found speaking to someone else who had gone through this at least made me feel that I wasn't going mad. We shared our thoughts and feelings and our wonderful memories about our boys. The highs, the lows, the funny, the naughty, covering the terrain of their lives from babies to men.

You know they really were here, they existed, they lived and they died. They were and will always be an essential part of who we are. We loved them and they most certainly mattered, even if not in their own minds.

To the question 'why'? I have come to my own conclusion, which is the result of countless hours of thinking and struggling to understand. Today I feel I have reached a place in myself that allows me to be brave and live and love.

I sincerely hope you will take the opportunity to contact Salvation Army Suicide Prevention - Bereavement Support Services about resources and support for yourself.

suicideprevention.salvos.org.au

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST, CONTACT
THE CONFERENCE MANAGER AT:

The Hotel Network

Po Box 5580, West Chatswood
NSW 1515 Australia

Phone: (02) 9414-4978

Fax: (02) 9411-4243

Email: postvention@hotelnetwork.com.au

www.hotelnetwork.com.au

