## **Emerging Minds.**

National
Workforce
Centre for Child
Mental Health

# The impact of family and domestic violence on the child online course

### About this course

The impact of FDV on the child online course provides practitioners with an introduction to the impact of family and domestic violence on children. It gives a definition of FDV, describes some important understandings that support practice, and highlights the impact that it can have on the child's relationships, physical health, and social and emotional wellbeing.

The course describes important understandings for all practitioners who are working in adult-focused services about the effects of family and domestic violence on children's mental health. These understandings are crucial to all professionals working with adults and children because of the high prevalence of FDV in Australia and the short, medium and long-term effects on the mental health and social and emotional wellbeing of children.

### Why was this course developed?

This course was developed from evidence which shows the high instances of FDV within Australia, and the effects on women and children. The intersection between FDV, homelessness, substance use and poverty also mean that practitioners in these services require robust frameworks to help them identify and respond to the effects of violence on children.

It aims to provide some foundational understandings of the effects of FDV on children to support practitioners who want to know more about this, or who may be noticing many of their adult clients talking to them about their -and their children's – experience of violence.

After completing this foundational course you might like to continue with <u>Child-aware practice</u>: Family and domestic violence.



### How was this course developed?

This course was developed in collaboration with a number of stakeholders from academia, specialist violence services, women's safety services, general adult and child services, child mental health experts and mothers with lived experience of domestic and family violence.

A comprehensive literature review was undertaken into the effects of FDV on Australian children and the intersection of violence with other societal issues.

We were also forunate to work with national leaders in the field of FDV, such as Professor Sarah Wendt from Flinders University.

## Who is this course for?

This course is designed for all practitioners in adult-focused services who engage with adult and family adversity. It recognises the significant proportion of parents affected by FDV who present to services, and the interrelated nature of FDV and mental health, substance use, homelessness, financial pressure and child protection issues.

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