

Applications Open for the 2025 Post Graduate Course in Systemic Therapy and Family Therapy: Foundation and Advanced Levels.

This Post Graduate course in Systemic Therapy and Family Therapy has training program accreditation from the Australian Association of Family Therapy (AAFT).

2025 Course Information Session: Tuesday, 26th November 2024 at 6.00pm

Who is this training for?

This training program is designed for clinicians interested in extensive skill development and in-depth learning of the theoretical underpinnings of both the early and current approaches to Systemic Therapy and Family Therapy. Upon satisfactory completion of the course, trainees are eligible to apply for clinical membership with AAFT. You'll need a previous qualification in the helping professions and be currently working as a counselor.

Brief Overview

Course Structure.

This course has 2 levels: The Foundation Year for 2025 will run from February to December, meeting weekly for 5 hours on a Thursday afternoon, from 12.00pm to 5.00pm, over 4 X 8-week terms. Each term will start with a 2-day intensive on a Friday and Saturday, 9.30 am to 4.30pm.

The Advanced level for 2025 also runs from February to December on Tuesdays, 12.00pm to 5.00pm, over 4 X 10-week terms.

Course Content

- The course content covers and integrates Systemic Therapy, (Post Milan) Narrative and Solution Focused Therapy within a social constructionist and dialogic framework.
- There is an emphasis on understanding the ideas and linking them with practice.
- Plenty of skills development practice and supervised clinical work in the Low Fee Clinic.
- Detailed learning and reflection on practice via regular reviews of video recordings of clinical work undertaken in the Low Fee Clinic.
- Learning how to participate in reflecting teams.
- Discussion of weekly articles.
- Exploring maps of practice to help with learning and application of systemic skills.

About the trainers:

Roxanne Garven, Course Director



Roxanne (she/her) is an experienced systemic psychotherapist and trainer with postgraduate qualifications in Systemic Family Therapy (Kensington Consultation Centre and the University of Surrey, U.K.) and is a clinical member of AFT. Her background is in Clinical Social Work.

She is the founder and Director of the Systemic Consultation Centre, Perth, (2004) which delivers accredited Post Graduate training in Family Therapy and Systemic Therapy. The centre also runs the well-known Low Fee Counselling Clinic.

She has experience of using the systemic approach in a variety of clinical settings, for example, adult psychiatry, child and adolescent mental health, family violence, child protection and drug and alcohol treatment services. Roxanne has facilitated training in systemic practice internationally and nationally. She runs a clinical practice and consults to a variety of organisations.

Ben Shannahan



Ben (he/him) is a Systemic & Family Psychotherapist and clinical member of AFT and AFT(UK). Ben holds a Masters in Systemic Family Therapy from the Kensington Consultation Centre (University of Bedfordshire, UK) and holds a Masters in Narrative Therapy and Community Work through the Dulwich Centre and the University of Melbourne.

Ben has many years of experience working primarily in social work and child and adolescent mental health in London and in Perth. He is part of the teaching faculty of Partnership Projects UK, The Institute of Narrative Therapy (UK) and the Dulwich Centre. He has facilitated training in family and narrative therapy nationally and internationally.

In recent years, Ben has worked alongside families in diverse contexts. This includes working with families where child and adolescent-to-parent violence is a concern; foster families; young people of diverse genders, sexualities and bodies; and children, young people bereaved through suicide. Ben also works in independent practice.

Kim Penna



Kim is an experienced Systemic Psychotherapist with a background in Occupational Therapy. She has a Master's in Systemic Psychotherapy, completing her family therapy training at the Clanwilliam Institute in Dublin, Ireland. Kim also completed a postgraduate diploma in Systemic Family Therapy with Roxanne Garven in Perth. She completed her bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy at Edith Cowan University in Perth in 2011. Kim is a Clinical Family Therapist registered with the Australian Association of Family Therapy, as well as a member of the Family Therapy Association of Ireland. She holds membership with Occupational Therapy Australia and is registered with AHPRA.

Kim has worked in many areas including youth drug and alcohol services, child and adolescent mental health services, children's hospitals, adult mental health services, and in private practice with people who present with a variety of difficulties.

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