



Understanding Attachment and Trauma

Frequently Asked Questions

Understanding Attachment and Trauma *Online Course for Educators* Frequently Asked Questions

What is Understanding Trauma and Attachment?

Understanding Attachment and Trauma is an online learning course that enables teachers to undertake professional learning focussing on the understanding, assessment and classroom support of students with attachment and trauma difficulties.

The course is held over approximately one school term (ten weeks), access to all online materials, and three face-to-face sessions.

What will the online course involve?

The *Understanding Attachment and Trauma* course provides an introduction to the knowledge and skills teachers require supporting the teaching and learning needs of students with behavioural and learning difficulties, often associated with disrupted attachment and trauma. The course has four main elements:

- Understanding
- Assessment for learning;
- Strategies; and
- Case studies.

Course Overview

- Understanding the impact of Attachment and Trauma on learning
- Impact of trauma experiences on the brain
- Overview including origins: 4 types of attachment
- Characteristics of attachment disorder
- Assessment of attachment styles
- Related difficulties, including ASD
- Practical strategies
- The school as a secure base
- Strategies for working with each type of attachment disorder
- Case studies
- Resources
- Glossary

Personalised Learning and Behaviour Support Planning

The course will introduce participants to a model of functional behaviour assessment and goal setting for more personalised learning plans. The model uses a team-based, collaborative approach to developing individual learning and behaviour support plans for students who require tier three responses.

What are the benefits of the blended learning delivery model?

Learning is accessible to all teachers, and can be accessed online anywhere at any time convenient to the participating teacher, and enables teachers to progress at their own pace throughout the school term.

The content is presented in a variety of different formats to engage interest and accommodate different learning preferences. The *Understanding Attachment and Trauma* course includes interactions, animations and video examples, as well as written materials and links to online resources.

An additional strength of this online learning model is that teachers participate in the course alongside a cohort of 10-12 colleagues who are supported by an online tutor. The online tutor guides and monitors progress through the course, facilitates online forums, and presents up to three face-to-face sessions with the cohort. This introduces a personal and social element to the learning, which is often missing in online learning courses.

Where was it developed? Is it relevant to schools in Australia?

The Online Training *Understanding Attachment and Trauma* content was developed by Yarra Me School and the online platform is licenced from Online Training International.

The Online Training *Understanding Attachment and Trauma* course is hosted on the Online Training International and set out similarly to the suite of *Inclusion Online* courses. The content of the course has been adapted to the Victorian government school context, and includes Victorian and international case studies.

The course will be initially delivered by Yarra Me School to teachers in Victoria.

Who can access the online courses?

The courses are designed for teachers, visiting teachers and allied health staff responsible for the assessment and support of students with disabilities and learning difficulties. The course is mainly aimed for primary school teachers

What type of assessments will the course involve?

Participants are required to set goals and strategies for a student in their class, based on the assessment and intervention processes explored within the course, and then report the outcomes of their strategies to their online tutor at the completion of the course. This course requirement supports learning becoming embedded in practice.

Successful completion of a course will require reading the online content, completion of three quizzes, ten online forum contributions, writing three goals and three interventions and participation in three face-to-face sessions.

What is the time commitment and duration of the course?

The time commitment of the course is approximately 20 hours and is to be carried out over a period of approximately 10 weeks. The course allows participants to complete the course in their own time throughout this period.

Where will the face-to-face sessions take place?

Your Online Tutor will arrange three face-to-face sessions in a location accessible to all participants in their cohort. Options will include:

- in a staffroom or meeting room if wireless internet is available for laptop computers
- in a local school's IT lab

When will the face-to-face sessions be held?

There are three face-to-face sessions: one at the beginning, middle and end of each course. Sessions are approximately 75 minutes each and will usually be conducted after school.

What IT skills or computer equipment do I need?

Participants require a computer with access to the internet. The online learning platform is simple and user friendly. Participants will have access to an online tutor to guide them through the course and assist them with any difficulties they may encounter.

What is the cost?

Understanding Attachment and Trauma is offered free to teachers, as part our commitment to building workforce capability for inclusion. Free to whole schools registering to do the training. Sessions will be run at your school (in person, or via polycom)

There is a \$20 registration fee for participants attending the sessions at Yarra Me School in Preston.

Does this course meet the Special Needs Plan training requirements?

Yes. As part of the Victorian Government Special Needs Plan, teachers are required to build their capacity to teach learners with disability.

Teachers must be able to identify the new learning they have gained from their PD and have evidence of attendance or engagement.

The Understanding Attachment and Trauma course is referenced to the following descriptors within the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers to meet the Special Needs Plan requirements:

- Develop teaching activities that incorporate differentiated strategies to meet the specific learning needs of learners across the full range of abilities. (Descriptor 1.5)
- Design and implement teaching activities that support the learning and participation of learners with disability and address relevant policy and legislative requirements. (Descriptor 1.6)
- Establish and implement inclusive and positive interactions to engage and support all learners in classroom activities. (Descriptor 4.1)

How do I register for a course?

Registrations will open in 2018. Registration for courses is through the Yarra Me School website:
<http://www.yarrame.vic.edu.au/professional-learning.html>

Once accepted into a **course**, participants will be notified by email of specific course details by their online tutor. This will include the venue and date of the first face-to-face session.

Where can I find out further information?

For further information on the *Understanding Trauma and Attachment* course please contact Yarra Me School on 9478 8895 or by email yarra.me.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au