

Calmer Classrooms Training for Early Childhood Educators

A workshop to train regional educators to better understand the impact that trauma has on young children, was held in Leongatha last week.

Thirty educators and support staff from South Gippsland and Bass Coast attended the training in the Council Chambers which was hosted jointly by South Gippsland Shire Council and the Berry Street Childhood Institute, a non-profit community service organisation established in 1877 to protect and care for children.

“We want to promote opportunities for healing and recovery for infants, children and young people impacted by trauma and disrupted attachment,” explained presenter Julie Hill from the ‘Take Two’ Unit at Berry Street, Richmond. “It can affect their learning and social skills and behaviour, with many having extreme difficulties coping in educational and social settings.”

Council’s Children and Family Services Manager Sally Baker said that the feedback from the participants had been very positive and community partnerships like this work well to combine resources and access more educational opportunities for the region.

“This training gave attendees lots of practical advice on how to create calm learning environments for young children that reduce reactive behaviour,” she said. “My thanks go to Council’s Pre-school Field Officer Michelle Gough who organised this event and brought these Early Years educators together. Such events are great opportunities for them to both learn and network as they are often working in isolation in their individual centres throughout the region.”

Photograph: Catherine Simpson (Berry Street, Gippsland) and Sally Baker (South Gippsland Shire Council) with presenter Julie Hill (‘Take Two’ Berry Street, Richmond)

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