

Preface

This book is based upon research by Lynne and ideas developed by Noel in the practice of supervision. The research topic has evolved from Lynne's experience as a social worker in the turbulent field of child protection in Victoria and Queensland, Australia. More than 20 years ago, as a social work practitioner in direct service delivery, she experienced the profound impact that an inspiring supervisor could have on her own direct practice with children and families. This experience of leadership and supervision was containing, nurturing, yet extending and developmental. It motivated her to remain in the field and to take up the challenge of becoming a supervisor, eventually moving into the role of an educator of supervisors and, later, an academic. Noel has developed and delivered training for supervisors over the past two decades. As a manager of therapeutic services to vulnerable children, he continues to lead, manage, and supervise staff who work with the trauma that children have experienced.

A resounding message from Lynne's and Noel's experiences is that supervision can truly impact on the service experienced by children and their families. A second message is that, in reflecting on the literature, there appeared to be little research evidence upon which to base the training of supervisors. Particularly striking was that the bulk of the literature offering theoretical frameworks and guidance for supervisors and supervision was not grounded in the research. It was this observation that formed the basis of the research and ultimately this book.

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An Evidence Informed Approach

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