

Multidisciplinary training for specialist courts - Breaking down silos and building capacity

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Overview of Presentation

- What do we mean by multidisciplinary training?
- Why is it important?
- Overview of the multidisciplinary training programs that the Judicial College of Victoria delivers – what's worked well, what the challenges and learnings have been.
- Areas for future exploration and development.



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What do we mean by multidisciplinary training?

- Bringing together all the agencies working in and with specialist courts to:
 - Explore issues from the perspectives of multiple disciplines.
 - Understand ideas and issues across disciplines.
 - Learn to problem solve together.



Children's Court
of Victoria

Ballarat Children's Court
It Takes a Village

Wednesday 10 July 2019

Craig's Royal Hotel
10 Lydiard St South
East Ballarat

MCV
MAGISTRATES COURT
OF VICTORIA



Shepparton Specialist
Family Violence Court Training

**Multi-disciplinary
practice**

Friday 30 August 2019

The Woolshed at Emerald Bank
7719 Goutburn Valley Hwy
Kialla



Children's Court
of Victoria

Family Drug Treatment Court
**Working with a
Common Purpose**

Wednesday 3 April 2019

Ascot House
50 Fenton Street
Ascot Vale

Ballarat Specialist
Family Violence Court
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
PRACTICE

22 November 2019

This training aims to develop an understanding of:

- roles and responsibilities in the multi-disciplinary team; and
- how to work together to provide a specialised, collaborative and problem-solving response to family violence when working in the Specialist Family Violence Court.

MCV
MAGISTRATES COURT
OF VICTORIA



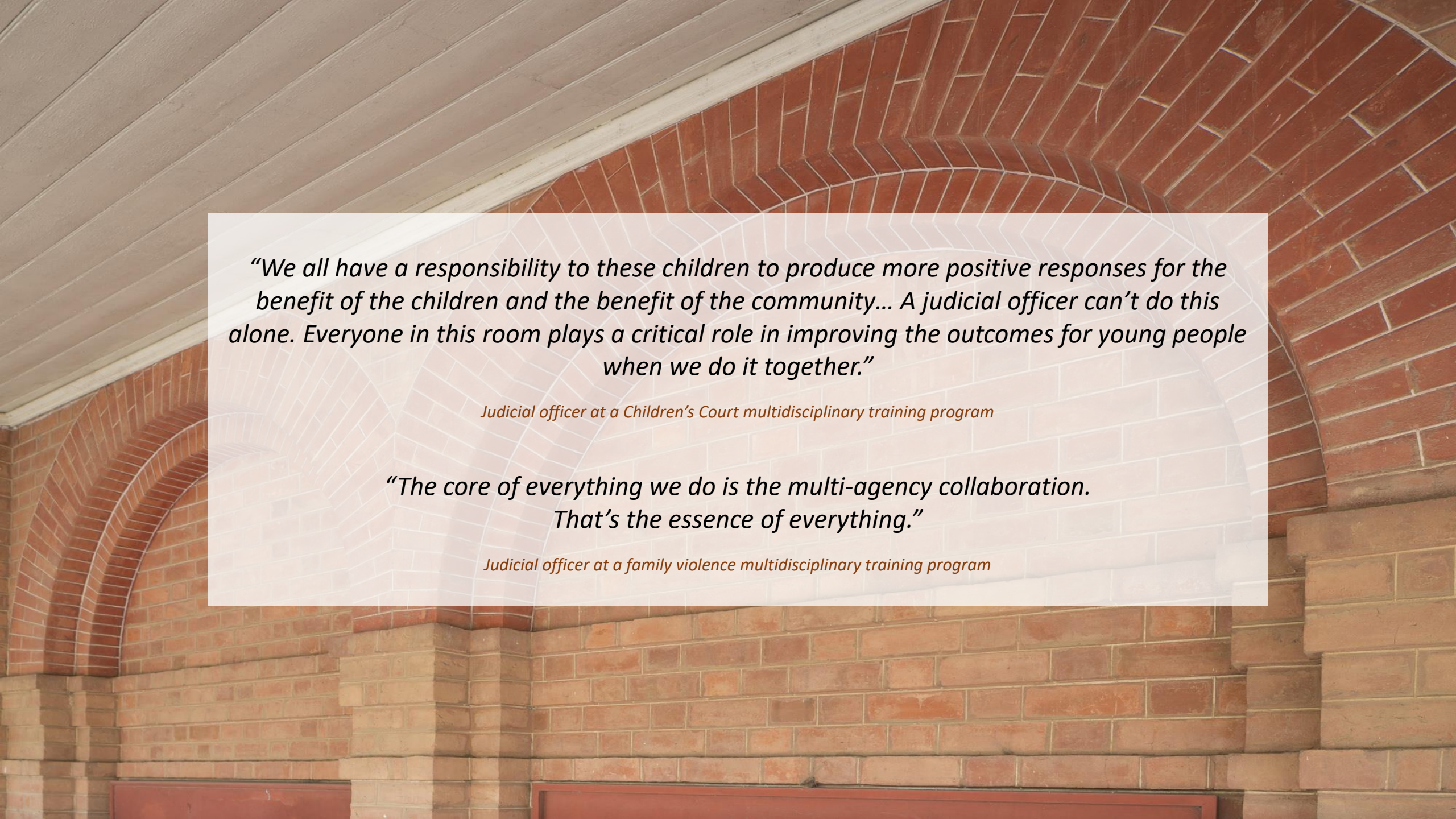
Photography: Chipphoto

Why is it important?

- Common knowledge base and shared purpose.
- Insight into respective disciplines - understanding of roles and responsibilities.
- Improves cohesion and respect for diversity.
- Ability to work collaboratively - meet multiple client needs simultaneously.

Hyams, Ross L. and Sadique, Denise, The Value of Incidental Learning in a Multidisciplinary Setting, *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education*, Issue 20, p.439, 2014

Schlossberg, D., Promoting Justice through Interdisciplinary Teaching, Practice and Scholarship: An Examination of Transactional Law Clinic and Interdisciplinary Education, 11(4) *Legal Education Digest* 5

The background of the image is a photograph of a brick archway. The arch is constructed from red bricks with white mortar. The perspective is looking up at the arch, which curves from the left side of the frame towards the right. The lighting is even, highlighting the texture of the bricks.

“We all have a responsibility to these children to produce more positive responses for the benefit of the children and the benefit of the community... A judicial officer can’t do this alone. Everyone in this room plays a critical role in improving the outcomes for young people when we do it together.”

Judicial officer at a Children’s Court multidisciplinary training program

*“The core of everything we do is the multi-agency collaboration.
That’s the essence of everything.”*

Judicial officer at a family violence multidisciplinary training program

The Judicial College of Victoria

- Established in 2002 to provide continuing education and training for judicial officers.
- Publish a range of legal resources and deliver innovative and varied education programs.
- Work across the six Victorian court and tribunal jurisdictions.



The College's multidisciplinary training

- Drug Court – since 2017
- Specialist Family Violence Courts – since 2018
- Children's Court – since 2018
- Family Drug Treatment Court – since 2019



The Process

- Court observations
- Consultations
- Program development
- Program delivery
- Evaluation



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What's working well?

- Unique opportunity for participants to network with a broad range of organisations.
- Space to have challenging conversations.
- Working through activities and case scenarios to problem solve together.
- Expanding knowledge of local service provision and referral pathways.
- Tailoring content to the local context.
- Involving those with lived experience.



The Challenges

- Meeting the needs of such a varied group with different roles and experience levels.
- Having enough time to explore issues and roles in depth.
- Resource intensive and need funded properly.





What have we learnt?

- Each court and location have their own unique context, ways of working and challenges.
- Importance of consultations and understanding the local context.
- The training creates positive impacts for those using the courts.

Where to next?

- Evaluation – particularly of impact on those using the courts.
- Creating frameworks for shared processes.
- Potential value of multidisciplinary training for mainstream courts.



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