COURSE LECTURERS

PAUL TUXWORTH

Paul has 30 years experience in counselling, group facilitation and assessment in the field of child abuse. After completing a Social Work degree and studies at BST he has served as a child abuse prevention and response trainer, consultant and investigator in churches and mission agencies throughout Queensland and south-east Asia.

RICHARD GIBSON

Trained as a social worker, Richard has been a pastor and taught New Testament and Church History for more than 25 years. As Principal of BST he longs to raise up workers well equipped to prevent and respond wisely to abuse in churches and Christian organisations.

KELSEY FITZ-GERALD

Kelsey works with children with disabilities and is a clinical coach supporting clinicians engaging in trauma-informed therapy practice. She has a heart for missions and has spent time in Asia working with families, government institutions and private sector physiotherapy provision for children.

GET IN TOUCH

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CHILD ABUSE IN CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES: PREVENTION & RESPONSE

Learning from our mistakes, creating safe spaces

Pastors, missionaries, ministers, youth workers, elders: all Christian leaders have a special responsibility to safeguard the children God has entrusted to their care.

BST
Brisbane School of Theology

1 in 10 young protestants have left a church because of a failure to respond justly to abuse. [*1]

73% of Australians said abuse in the church is the number one negative influence on their perceptions of Christians and Christianity. [*2]

Jesus insisted on the value of every child and condemned those who hindered children coming to him.

Christian leaders are frequently criticised for failing to protect children and to respond appropriately to abuse.

Preventing and responding well to child abuse is a sensitive, difficult job. Many Christians find it counter-intuitive. Very few church leaders have received the level of training required to navigate this difficult terrain.

THIS UNIT WILL:

- identify the beliefs held by Christians that enable abuse to occur;
- equip Christian leaders to protect children and respond appropriately to child abuse when it does occur
- Clarify legal responsibilities for reporting

In addition to lectures by faculty and practitioners, this course will rely on: documented case studies; news reports; small group and class discussions.

CONTENT

- Biblical and theological foundations
- The nature of abuse
- Understanding those who experience abuse
- Understanding those responsible for abuse
- Understanding those who enable abuse
- Preventing and responding to abuse in church and mission contexts.

Warning: This course contains content that should be upsetting to all participants.

DELIVERY

The unit is available in two modes:

- On the BST campus, in person OR;
- Live-streamed, via Zoom (details on application)

DATES

- The 13 week unit will be offered between 8 February and 24 May 2023 (see website for full details)
- On Wednesdays, 6:30pm-9:30pm

COST

Credit

The unit may be taken for credit (12 pts) toward an ACT award

$2679 (Undergraduate) or $2802 (Graduate)

(*FEEHELP* is available)

Audit

The course may be audited, without a need to complete formal assessments

$660

1. (2019, Christianity Today) 2. (2017, Mccrindle, Faith and Belief in Australia)