



Learn to PLAY  
Workshops  
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# “Imagine, Create, Belong”: a new intervention for adolescents with social difficulties 1 day workshop

Professor Karen Stagnitti and Dr Sophie Goldingay

Monday 22 OCTOBER 2018  
9:00am - 4:30pm

Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne  
328 Flinders St, Melbourne VIC 3000  
Heritage Lounge

## ABOUT

This is a new workshop presented by Learn to Play Events for 2018. Research using Learn to Play Therapy has been extended to work with adolescents who experience social difficulties. It has been assumed that abilities underpinning pretend play ability are no longer relevant to young adolescents. This is now disputed with evidence emerging that abilities underpinning pretend play are important for function in adolescence.

This workshop introduces the newly developed assessment called the Animated Movie Test. This is an assessment of the abilities underpinning pretend play. This assessment is suitable for children aged 8 years to 15 years. Participants will be taken through the purpose, administration, scoring and interpretation of this new assessment, including reliability and validity evidence to date.

The new intervention called “Imagine, Create, Belong” will be introduced by Dr Sophie Goldingay. The theoretical underpinnings of this intervention will be explained. This new 8 week intervention for young people has been trialled in two research studies and found to increase young people’s self-insight into their social ability, maintain their flexible thinking and increase their narrative thinking. This results in more competence in their social ability. Social interaction with peers is important in adolescence.

Participants will be taken through the 8 sessions of the intervention and small group work will include experiencing and practice of some of the activities. At the workshop, the manual and score sheets for the Animated Movie Test and the manual for the “Imagine, Create, Belong” intervention will be available for purchase at discount workshop prices, for those who wish to implement this approach in their work. This workshop would be valuable for those working with young adolescents who have social difficulties including social workers, occupational therapists, specialist teachers of young adolescents, psychologists and play therapists.

## Workshop content:

Why play is still important in adolescence

Animated Movie Test – purpose, administration, scoring and interpretation

“Imagine, Create, Belong” – how to build social ability in young people

## PRESENTER’S PROFILE - PROFESSOR KAREN STAGNITTI

Professor Karen Stagnitti currently works as Professor, Personal Chair at the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, Victoria, Australia. She graduated with a Bachelor degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Queensland. For over 30 years she has mainly worked in early childhood intervention programs in community-based settings as part of a specialist paediatric multidisciplinary team.

In 2003 she graduated from LaTrobe University with a Doctor of Philosophy. Her area of research is children’s play. Karen has written five books on play. She also has over 90 national and international papers published as well as 20 book chapters. Her norm referenced standardised play assessment, the Child-Initiated Pretend Play Assessment was published in 2007. From this research, the Learn to Play approach to building play ability in children was developed through clinical work. Throughout the year, she is invited to present her work on the play ability of children nationally and internationally. Currently she teaches into the Master of Child Play Therapy at Deakin University.

## PRESENTER’S PROFILE - DR SOPHIE GOLDINGAY

Dr Sophie Goldingay is a senior lecturer in the School of Health and Social Development at Deakin University, and is the Course Director of the Bachelor of Social Work within the School of Health and Social Development. She uses mixed methods and decolonising research approaches to work towards universal inclusion, equity and access in educational settings. She won a Vice Chancellor’s award for Excellent Contributions to Equity and Access in 2012. She is also the recipient of three teaching awards, two from the School of Health and Social Development in 2012 and 2016 and a Commendation for Excellence in Teaching from the Faculty of Health in 2013.

## COST

\$320 (GST incl.) includes pre-workshop refreshments, morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and all workshop resources.

**Registration is now open. Please register online at [www.learntoplayevents.com/events](http://www.learntoplayevents.com/events)**