

Unitec lunchtime seminars

Focus on Fathering Week

31st August - September 6th

First Floor, Waitakere Library, Ratanui Street 12-1pm



Tuesday 1st of September: Harald Breiding-Buss (Father and Child Trust): **Including Men in Health and Social Services.** Harald is one of the founders of the Father & Child Trust, which started in 1997 in Christchurch. The Trust provides services to fathers as well as work with 'mainstream' organisations to provide an approach that includes fathers. This includes a wide variety of areas such as, for example, teen parents, maternity, or imprisoned dads. Social and health agencies are often keen to better involve fathers, but are at a bit of a loss on how to do so effectively. This talk gives some background on fatherhood in New Zealand, including the elusive solo dads, and shows practical ways to work inclusively in everyday practice to achieve better coverage of services.

Wednesday 2nd: Geoff Bridgman (Department of Social Practice, Unitec):

Internet pornography - what fathers should be discussing with their sons. Dr Geoff Bridgman talks about nature and dimensions of internet pornography, the challenges that internet pornography presents to gender understanding and quality sexual and emotional relationships, and how this might be discussed within the family and how teenage boys might be engaged with this discussion.

Thursday 3rd: Alex Williams (Department of Early Childhood Education, Unitec): **Men and Childhood Education.** Alex Williams, father of four children (ranging in age from 2 - 16 years), lecturer in Early Childhood Education & researcher in the field of male under representation in ECE, will host this informative & interactive session. Alex will consider some of the historical & current factors contributing to the highly gendered nature of ECE, he will explore some of the challenges facing men currently working in the ECE context & will consider some ways that we might encourage men to enter this important & rewarding profession

Friday 4th : David Kenkel and Ian Hyslop (Department of Social Practice, Unitec and Office of the Commissioner for Children): **Myths About Boys.** This talk explores words and ideas that are not often enough associated with male parenting - love and tenderness. Being a parent changes our lives in all sorts of ways - not least by the power of the bond that develops between us and our children. For most of us guys the depth of love we experience when we first meet our children comes as a bit of a surprise - Did our dads feel like that about us? What the world often forgets to tell us is that we too bond with our children in ways that are far more than just words - ways that involve our hearts, minds and bodies right down to the level of brain and body bio-chemistry. Loving our kids changes us all the way through. Its not a surprise - given that nature is so efficient and economical – that what we feel is an exact match with what our children need from us. Our children need our tenderness We are richly rewarded when we give it.