



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

11390NAT Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma

2025-26

Contents

Introduction	3
Course participants and pre-requisites	4
Your questions answered about the course	5
Course content	7
Course timetable	9
Course cost and assessment requirements	10
Course cancellation, deferral and refunds	11
Application and enrolment process	12

This brochure provides a brief overview of the Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma course. Those considering enrolling are advised to also consult the Student Handbook located on our website, prior to application.

The Australian Childhood Foundation is a
Registered Training Organisation (RTO No. 22094).

For enquiries contact the team at the Foundation
on support@childhood.org.au or call 1300 381
581.

learn.childhood.org.au



Introduction

The Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma was developed in response to an industry need identified by Australian Childhood Foundation and has been running since 2010. 11390NAT Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma is the third iteration of the course and has been adjusted based on further industry consultation.

This course is designed to provide degree-qualified professionals with the specialist knowledge and skills needed to work effectively and ethically with children and young people affected by trauma and their families and communities. The changing evidence base about the neuroscience of trauma and attachment disruption continues to inform the practice of professionals who work with vulnerable and at-risk children, young people and families.

This course information booklet outlines our delivery of the qualification. This delivery mode blends online virtual sessions alongside self-paced learning that participants can undertake in their own time. It provides maximum flexibility for participants who are balancing their work, personal life and study requirements.

“I now feel that I have a comprehensive knowledge of developmental trauma and its impacts ... I have already applied some of the course's applications to my practice and have seen positive results.”

- 2024 Student



Course participants and pre-requisites

This course suits individuals working with children and young people affected by trauma in a range of services, including child protection, out of home care, family violence, family support, youth justice, mental health, sexual assault, drug and alcohol, counselling, youth support and education settings.

This course can be undertaken by people who are:

- Are working directly with children and young people
- Are focused on positive outcomes for children, young people and their families
- Are seeking to enhance their current practice

To undertake this course, you will need to provide evidence of the following:

- Being over 18 AND
- Having access to a computer and the internet AND
- Being currently employed in a relevant role AND
- Meeting current working with children requirements of the relevant State or Territory AND
 - Have completed a bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline, or
 - Have completed an Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree in a relevant discipline and have had at least 2 years of full-time professional employment in an environment where children, young people, and their families are the focus of intervention, or
 - Have completed a Diploma in a relevant discipline and have had at least 3 years of full-time professional employment in an environment where children, young people, and their families are the focus of intervention, or
 - Have at least 5 years of full-time professional employment in an environment where children, young people, and their families are the focus of intervention, plus attendance at an interview to determine suitability and capacity for success in the course.

Students will be required to undertake language, literacy, and numeracy testing before enrolment alongside a questionnaire to ensure a level of digital competency that is required to complete this online course.

Note: This course exposes students to challenging and emotionally confronting content. It requires students to have sufficient maturity and work/life experience to provide professional support services within organisational and regulatory requirements.

Your questions answered about the course

What activities and time commitments will be expected?

The course requires 640 hours, including:

- Formal learning (self-paced and virtual tutorials)
- Assessment preparation and submission
- Reading and research
- Work-based activities
- Peer group participation

Students should plan ~16 hours per week. Units are delivered in 10-week blocks with self-paced content, two live tutorials, and assessments. Of the total hours, 448 are self-directed learning applied in the workplace.

How will the course be delivered?

Delivered 100% online via the Learning Management System and Zoom.

Will this course challenge me as I bring a good depth of knowledge and experience?

The course builds on Australian Childhood Foundation programs for children and adolescents affected by trauma. It supports deeper exploration and application of trauma-informed practice, linking learning directly to participants' work context.

Is there a work placement component to the course?

No specific placement is required. Students must be employed in a role supporting children/young people, allowing reflection on practice. A letter for your employer detailing the course and study commitments is available if needed.

Do you offer scholarships?

The Foundation supports First Nation's students by offering a number of full-fee scholarships each year. Please contact support@childhood.org.au for more information and the application form.

Continued

What professional recognition does the course have?

Nationally accredited by ASQA and delivered by the Australian Childhood Foundation (RTO: 22094). A VET Graduate Certificate is equivalent in depth and complexity to a Higher Education Graduate Certificate, focusing on work-based application.

Is this course affiliated with a university?

This is a vocationally based course, not affiliated with a university. Students seeking credit towards a university course should speak to that institution about applying for recognition of prior learning.

How do I find out about my rights and responsibilities as a student with Australian Childhood Foundation?

For more information about our RTO and to access the student handbook, click [\[here\]](#). For questions, email support@childhood.org.au.

Can I get any recognition for my existing skills and knowledge?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) allows previous learning and practice to count toward competency in some or all units. You will be asked about RPL during application and enrolment. Evidence of current and relevant practice is required (not just previous professional development sessions). Costs for RPL will be outlined if requested.



Course content

The course is structured to include four units of competency exploring the application of this knowledge in a range of settings and roles.

NAT11390001 – Pre-requisite unit: Integrate knowledge of developmental trauma when working with children and young people

The purpose of this unit is to provide the foundational knowledge required for the rest of the course content. The focus of the unit is to develop and enhance the knowledge and skills required to understand the ways complex developmental trauma affects children and young people's development, functioning, and relationships. It also examines the ethical principles, cultural perspectives, and children's rights frameworks that underpin safe, recovery-focused practice.

Students will cover:

- Normative brain and body development across childhood and adolescence
- Developmental trauma concepts, impacts and terminology
- Relational, cultural and intergenerational dimensions of trauma
- First Nations perspectives on healing and culture-as-strength
- Ethical practice: participation, consent, privacy, and confidentiality
- Children's rights frameworks and child-centred practice

NAT11390002 – Apply developmental trauma knowledge to assessment

The purpose of this unit is to equip learners with the skills and knowledge to undertake trauma-informed assessments of children and young people. The focus is on applying ethical, legal and cultural considerations to the assessment process, gathering information from multiple sources, and analysing data to identify developmental, relational, and trauma-related needs. Learners will also develop the ability to prepare professional reports and communicate findings to diverse audiences.

Students will cover:

- Developmental trauma assessment models and frameworks
- Trauma-informed and culturally responsive assessment approaches
- Informed consent, privacy, and legal/ethical obligations
- Risk and protective factors, strengths-based approaches
- Methods for gathering and analysing assessment data
- Professional report writing and communication strategies

Continued

NAT11390003 – Design and implement trauma-informed interventions

The purpose of this unit is to develop skills in planning and implementing trauma-informed and relational interventions. The focus is on using theories of change, relational mapping, and cultural safety principles to design interventions that address the needs of children and young people. The unit emphasises collaboration with families, carers and professional teams, as well as monitoring and adapting interventions to ensure they remain responsive and effective.

Students will cover:

- Theories and models of change in trauma recovery and healing
- Relational intervention models and strategies
- Relational mapping techniques and goal setting
- Trauma-informed, culturally responsive intervention planning
- Engaging children, carers, and professional teams in intervention plans
- Monitoring, reviewing, and adapting interventions based on feedback

NAT11390004 – Develop and implement a trauma-informed practice framework

The purpose of this unit is to strengthen organisational capacity for trauma-informed care. The focus is on developing, implementing, and critically reviewing practice frameworks that support staff wellbeing, reflective practice, and safe service delivery. Learners will explore organisational risk and protective factors, supervision and reflective practice models, and strategies to prevent and respond to vicarious trauma at a systemic level.

Students will cover:

- Characteristics and principles of trauma-informed organisations
- Professional practice frameworks and their development
- Trauma-informed supervision and reflective practice models
- Organisational trauma and vicarious trauma impacts
- Staff wellbeing strategies and safe work practices
- Planning, implementing and reviewing organisational frameworks

Course timetable

The 11390NAT Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma is delivered over 12 months.

The course comprises four unit blocks. Each block includes:

- Four modules of self-paced online content
- Two live online tutorials (recorded)
- Series of assessment tasks

Course content is delivered, and assessments submitted, via the online Learning Management System. Assessments are due in week eight and week ten of each block. Each block is separated by a two-week study break.

Students are encouraged to attend a 1-hour virtual induction held in the first week of the course. Tutorials are held in week four and week eight during business hours.

Unit Block	Timeframe	Tutorials	Break
Unit 1 Integrate knowledge of developmental trauma when working with children and young people	10 weeks	1-hour introductory tutorial (week 1), 2-hour (weeks 4 & 8)	2 weeks
Unit 2 Apply developmental trauma knowledge to assessment	10 weeks	2-hour (weeks 4 & 8)	2 weeks
Unit 3 Design and implement trauma-informed interventions	10 weeks	2-hour (weeks 4 & 8)	2 weeks
Unit 4 Develop and implement a trauma-informed practice framework	10 weeks	2-hour (weeks 4 & 8)	Course Completion

Course cost

The cost of the 11390NAT Graduate Certificate in Developmental Trauma is \$6,500.

The course cost includes:

- Access to online content modules, including additional learning materials, interactive activities, and knowledge checks
- Assessment marking, guidance, feedback, and support
- Support from Course Intake Coordinators, Facilitators, and the Support Services team
- Regular tutorials
- Digital certificate

Students may pay the course fee in full on enrolment or via the approved payment plan. All fees are GST-free. All courses have a non-refundable administration fee of \$300.

Fee schedule:

Full course fee: \$6,500

Instalment plan option:

- \$1,500 due on enrolment
- \$2,500 due on week 12
- \$2,500 due on week 26

Assessment requirements

Most assessments are linked to the workplace and current practice of students and require time outside the set learning activities.

Assessments include theoretical reviews, short answer papers, evaluative tasks, recorded role plays, longer written tasks, reflective plans and presentations. Students will also develop documents such as assessment reports, intervention plans and practice frameworks.

As this is a vocationally based course, assessments use a competency framework. Students must meet all requirements with 100% accuracy. If an assessment does not meet the benchmarks, students will be asked to re-attempt only the sections not fully met. Up to three attempts are allowed for each task. Assessments are marked as 'Satisfactory' or 'Not satisfactory', with the final result for each unit recorded as 'Competent' or 'Not competent'.

Course cancellation, deferral and refunds

Students will receive a full refund of fees if the Foundation cancels or postpones a course. Other than course fees, the Foundation is not liable for any costs incurred by the student in the event of a cancellation or postponement. Participants can use their fees to transfer into a future course if applicable.

A two week cooling off period also applies from the time of course commencement to ensure that the student is certain that they selected the right course that meets their academic needs and career goals. A full refund, less the non-refundable deposit of \$300.00, will be issued if students withdraw during the cooling off period.

After the cooling off period, a refund post-enrolment will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon receipt of a written request.

The Foundation is committed to supporting students who are struggling or hit hurdles, providing appropriate assistance and alternatives in lieu of course withdrawal.

The Foundation understands students may need to take a break from studies due to personal and work commitments. Students may apply to defer their studies and recommence at a later time. A \$300 re-enrolment fee applies to deferred students.

Students are required to complete and lodge an Australian Childhood Foundation Change in Enrolment Form in the event of withdrawal or deferment.



Your enrolment guide

Step 1

Review the information in this booklet and on the Foundation's website to see if this qualification is something you are interested in and to see if you meet the prerequisites.

Step 2

Use the link provided to commence the application process.*
Once you have completed the application form, you will receive a confirmation email, acknowledging that we have received your application.

Step 3

Within a few days of applying, you'll receive an email to complete an online language, literacy and numeracy quiz. Your application and quiz results will then be reviewed to determine eligibility.

Step 4

You will receive an email from us advising whether your application has been successful or an email or phone call if we need further information – such as for an RPL application – or you are not successful.

Step 5

If your application is successful, we will provide you with an enrolment link. Upon completing the enrolment form, you will need to provide copies of your working with children check – or equivalent – and qualifications, as well as your Unique Student Identifier (USI).

Step 6

You will receive confirmation of your enrolment and invoice, if successful, or receive an email or call from us to either ask for further information or advise you if you are not successful.

Step 7

Once the initial payment is received, you will receive details on how to access your learner portal and will receive further information about your specific course intake closer to course commencement. Welcome to the course!

*Step 2: In your application, you'll provide details about yourself and your role, complete language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy checks, and indicate any RPL interest or learning needs.