

## Program Outline

Friday, March 12th

- 8:00 am •Registration
- 8:30 - 10:30 am •OPENING ADDRESS
- OVERVIEW / AUSTRALIA, PAST AND PRESENT
- INTRODUCTION TO COERCIVE PERSUASION AND MIND CONTROL
- 10:30 - 11:00 am •Morning Tea
- 11:00 - 12:15 pm •Lecture: COERCIVE PERSUASION AND MIND CONTROL
- 12:15 - 1:15 pm •Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 - 3:00 pm •Choice: Lecture or Workshop
- 3:00 - 3:30 pm •Afternoon Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm •Choice: Lecture or Workshop

Saturday, March 13th

- 8:30 - 10:30 am •Lecture
- 10:30 - 11:00 am •Morning Tea
- 11:00 - 12:15 pm •Choice: Lecture or Workshop
- 12:15 - 1:15 pm •Lunch (provided)
- 1:15 - 3:00 pm •Choice: Lecture or Workshop
- 3:00 - 3:30 pm •Afternoon Tea
- 3:30 - 5:00 pm •Questions and Answers / Panel

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## Topics Covered in Lectures or Workshops

- Psychological Manipulation, Mind Control, and other dynamics of Cults and High Demand Groups
- Educating the public and parents
- Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Modalities
- Working with PTSD and Trauma related Symptomatology
- Working with Cult-involved Families
- Anxiety and Decision Making, Boundaries, Spiritual Concerns and Dependency Issues after the Cult
- How Grief becomes disenfranchised when losing a child to a Cult

## Dates & Location

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia March 12 – 13, 2010

Parliament House, Queensland  
Parliament House is located at the corner of George and Alice Streets and is within easy walking distance of the Brisbane CBD. You can also catch a bus or ferry to Parliament House. There are also numerous public car-parking stations within the CBD.

CIFS Qld Conference: Hosted at Parliament House by Kate Jones, MP Ashgrove

### Conference Hours

Registration and sign-in begins at 8:00 am on March 12, 2010. The conference begins at 8:30 am and concludes at 5:00 pm each day. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided each day.

## Conference Updates & Further Information

Please refer to the CIFS website at: [www.cifs.org.au](http://www.cifs.org.au)  
The details regarding Professional Accreditation will be posted at a later date on the CIFS Website.

### Terms & Conditions

CIFS Qld reserves the right to:

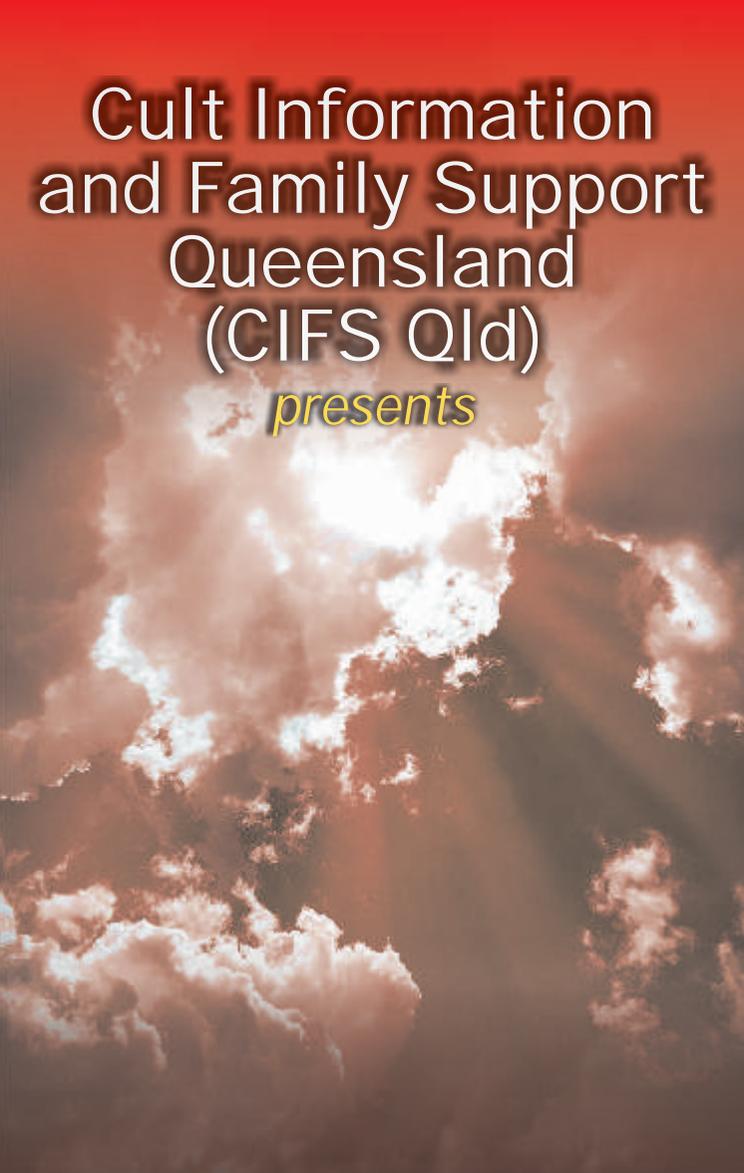
- (1) Change the program or course content of any session
- (2) Substitute a speaker who becomes unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances; or
- (3) Cancel any session of the program where a speaker cannot be replaced.

Travel arrangements to the conference venue and accommodation in Brisbane, is the responsibility of the participant.

### Confirmations and Cancellations

Registrants will receive a confirmation of registration and receipt for conference fees when payment has been processed. Cancellations received before February 26th, 2010 are refundable, less \$50 administrative charge. Please note that if you register and do not attend, you are still liable for full payment.

For more information, to verify registration or to contact a CIFS Qld representative, please phone  
CIFS Qld Secretary: 0413 088 218  
or email: [cifsqldnatcon@gmail.com](mailto:cifsqldnatcon@gmail.com)



# Cult Information and Family Support Queensland (CIFS Qld) *presents*

## A National Conference on Coercive Persuasion and Mind Control:

*Treating Victims of Coercive  
Groups and Destructive Cults*

# A National Conference on Coercive Persuasion and Mind Control:

## Treating Victims of Coercive Groups and Destructive Cults

### Why Should I Register?

We are all familiar with some extreme cases of coercive persuasion and mind control such as the events that unfolded at Waco, Texas with the Branch Davidians, which ended in a fiery raid on the compound of David Koresh and the individuals who followed him to their deaths. Jim Jones, the founder of the Peoples Temple shocked the world when he led over 900 people to either commit suicide or to murder other members in 1978 at Jonestown, Guyana. The Australian media has exposed extreme cases of abusive groups in recent years and we have become aware of groups such as Kenja, Children of God, the Exclusive Brethren and Brisbane Christian Fellowship. But what about less extreme, yet concerning and dangerous cases that mental health professionals come across on a daily basis that many times go undetected?

Individuals who have been victims of coercive persuasion and thought reform in destructive groups such as cults, and those who have been in coercive one-on-one relationships such as cultic friendships and cultic dating relationships frequently get misdiagnosed with anything from bipolar disorder to psychotic disorder as their traumatic symptoms may mimic these disorders. Many of these individuals search desperately for a mental health professional who understands the kind of manipulation and deception that they have endured. Often such clients are labeled "co-dependent". Mental health professionals become frustrated when they see these clients "disappear" from therapy or become disheartened when the methods they have previously used in working with abused clients do not work. Family members often search for a mental health professional who can help them make sense out of the fact that their loved one has suddenly severed their relationship. These family members frequently proclaim that their loved one has been transformed into a "different person" as they refer to the sudden, catastrophic personality changes that they observe them going through due to the thought reform tactics of the perpetrator.

The effects of mind control and coercive persuasion are some of the most misunderstood and deeply hidden problems that victims of these groups and relationships have endured. The outcome translates into tremendous psychological, emotional, social and financial loss for themselves and for loved ones.

In this timely, two-day conference, attendees will learn the skills they need to assess victims of thought reform, how to address the issues with loved ones, and provide participants with resources to learn how to treat those who have been victims of a coercive group, cult or cultic relationship. Participants will acquire a broad background of knowledge of coercive groups and relationships, and sound counsel, accompanied by practical workshops.

### Who Should Attend

- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- GP's and Health Professionals
- Professional Counselors
- Social Workers
- Politicians
- Clergy / Pastors
- Ex-Members & Family
- School Chaplains / Counselors
- Students

### Meet The Presenters



DONI WHITSETT, Ph.D; LCSW is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work, where she has been on faculty since 1994, having previously taught at UCLA for 6 years. She has been in the field of Social Work since 1967, receiving her doctorate in 1987. Dr. Whitsett teaches both first-year foundation courses in practice and behavior and second year courses in the Mental Health concentration. In addition, she

has a private practice where she has worked with cult-involved families and former members for over 15 years.

Dr. Whitsett is on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Cultic Studies Journal, published by the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA), where she has been a member since 1990. She has presented on various aspects of trauma and cults both nationally and internationally and trains mental health professionals in Los Angeles on how to treat this population. Her publications include three articles on cults: The Psychobiology of trauma and child maltreatment (2006); Cults and Families (with Dr. Stephen Kent, 2003); and A self psychological approach to the cult phenomenon (1992).



ROSANNE HENRY, M.A., L.P.C., is a psychotherapist practicing in Littleton, Colorado. For the past twenty years she has been active in the counter cult movement working closely with the former Cult Awareness Network and ICSA. She presently sits on the board of the International Cultic Studies Association (ICSA) and heads the Mental Health Committee. She has developed and facilitated ICSA's Recovery workshops for first and second-generation cult survivors for fifteen years.

Her trainings for mental health professionals have been presented at ICSA conferences for almost ten years. Rosanne also sits on the board of the Rocky Mountain Resource Center, a local cult monitoring organization. Her private practice specializes in the treatment of cult survivors and their families. Rosanne is a former member of Kashi Ranch; her story is published in TAKE BACK YOUR LIFE.

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