From surviving to thriving – the impact of childhood abuse and trauma on a child’s ability to grow physically, psychologically and spiritually.
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Context
Keynote address by Gregory Nicolau to the Trauma and young children – a caring approach conference on Monday 10 September 2012 at the Gateway Hotel, Wangaratta.

Content
This presentation provides an overview of the impact of cumulative harm on the developing brain and the consequences of such harm on the ‘internal working model’ of the evolving infant and child.

Infants and children who have experienced trauma and broken or fractured attachments will often view the world as unpredictable and hostile, leading to a belief system in which adults will not meet their needs. The infant and child will do whatever is necessary to ‘survive’. The brain develops a ‘whatever it takes’ strategy that can reveal itself in the behaviours of the infant or child that can be extremely confronting to adults.

The presentation explores key components of development in the context of Neurological Reparative Therapy. Demonstrating how these concepts can be used in a variety of environments in order to make significant shifts to the internal working models of the infant or child – from surviving to thriving.

Biography
Gregory Nicolau is the company director and consultant psychologist of Australian Childhood Trauma Group.

He has a 30-year career working with the most marginalised and vulnerable children, young people and families in our community and the agencies, organisations and education facilities who support them.

He has an exceptional reputation dealing with complex cases and situations in a compassionate and focused manner.

He’s transparent in dealing with staff and organisations and able to challenge when appropriate.

He enjoys supporting people to deliver the best outcomes for children and is an experienced trainer, facilitator and case supervisor. Gregory is also founder and chair of Random Acts of Kindness.