

# Conquering a “Code Brown”

Behavioural management for Faecal Smearing in children

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

ONLINE

11:00am – 2:30pm (Aust EST) (with 30 min break)

Brisbane/Sydney/Canberra/Melbourne/Hobart – 11:00 am – 2:30pm (Aust EST) Adelaide/Darwin – 10:30am – 2:00pm (Aust CST) - Perth – 9:00am – 12:30pm (Aust WST)

Faecal smearing (“Code Brown”), also called scatolia in medical literature, is common in children with significant developmental delays (eg Autism, ADHD, intellectual disability), trauma (eg abuse, PTSD) or mental health concerns (eg anxiety, OCD). It also occurs in normally developing (“neurotypical”) children. For parents who have children who engage in scatolia, it is stressful, exhausting, socially isolating and downright gross.

The reason for a child or young person smearing their faeces can be either medically related, sensory related, behavioural or a combination of these. Often there are multiple causes and multiple approaches are needed to discourage the behaviour. Understanding the causes and treatments is the first step to customising a plan to resolve the issue. With successful management requiring realistic family support, advocacy and interaction with all carers involved.

**Workshop Objectives** – this module will provide participants with:

- an understanding of the medical, sensory and behavioural presentations/reasons for smearing
- approaches and intervention strategies that can be used to discourage the behaviour
- ways to supporting families, while customising a plan to resolve the issues.

Although this workshop is a stand-alone module, participants would benefit from having attended a *Learning to Conquer the Wees & Poos (Basics and Beyond)* workshop prior to registering for this workshop.

## Workshop Delivery

Participants will be expected to complete the workshop requirements via an integrated system of pre-reading material, online content and participation in scheduled group presentation/tutorial session. Participants will be mailed a hard copy of the workshop notes, and emailed the zoom link (including password) for the online session, approximately one week prior to the workshop.

Participants will need to have access to internet facilities including Zoom and webcam to ensure that they are able to view workshop content and actively participate in the on line workshop. Participants also agree to the [online T&C](#). To fully participate in the interactive components of the online session, participants are encouraged to log on using a tablet, laptop or desk top computer. While utilising a mobile phone to access the session is possible, the functionality of the device may limit participants ability to fully engage in the interactive components of the session.

## Workshop Recording

Please note to safeguard the copyright of material presented, maintain the confidentiality of case discussions and the privacy of participants, **this workshop WILL NOT be recorded.**

This workshop is suitable for occupational therapists, psychologists, child health nurses and school health nurses.

## About the Presenter



**Rebecca Khan** is an occupational therapist, mother and continence advocate who runs a private allied health clinic in Brisbane, Australia. She has first-hand experience with have a tricky body, having lived with Ulcerative Colitis and associated surgical interventions for 20 years. As a volunteer, she has facilitated a support group for Crohn's and Colitis Australia for 10 years.

Rebecca has presented on the topics of paediatric continence and self-care for various organisations including Continence Foundation of Australia, Qld Health and Zi Mei Events.

In 2011, Rebecca authored the clinical resource *Conquering Wees & Poos: a learning package for continence clinicians* (© Queensland Health 2012) through the Queensland Children's Hospital. Rebecca graduated from the University of Qld in 2001 and has been assessing, treating and researching best practice for paediatric incontinence since 2002.

**Registrations** for this online workshop are now open on our website [www.zimei.com.au](http://www.zimei.com.au). Further workshop enquiries can be directed to Zi Mei Events on [info@zimei.com.au](mailto:info@zimei.com.au) or (07) 3358 3689.