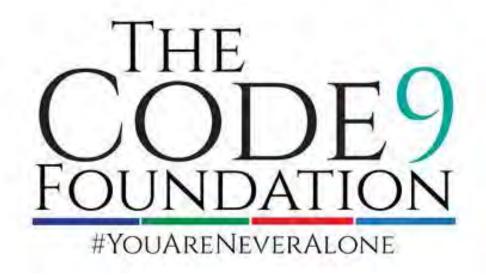
## Resilience for First Responders Webinar Three

Paul Saunders
Psychologist & Director







#### Webinar Tips

#### **Virtual Communication:**

- Use chat room to share ideas, encourage support and highlight topics
- Ask questions in Q&A
- We will take time to answer questions and discuss topics in the chat room.
- Make notes for yourself
- We will record the Webinar

#### Our Goals - Webinar Three

What happens when we have no more resilience

How to have the suicide conversation

Resilience Strategies for First Responders

Helping others build back their resilience

Professional Therapy options

 E-Help and ongoing support from Code 9







Resilience is defined as the process of adapting well in the face of trauma or tragedy, threats or other significant sources of stress

Our ability to bounce back after an adversity

What is Resilience

(APA, Southwick et al., 2014)



Low or no resilience puts us in the red (danger) zone

#### Symptoms of low resilience includes:

- Persistent illness (low immune system)
- Enraged angry/frustrated over little things
- Poor sleep
- Easily depressed, crying
- Extreme isolation or overly clingy
- Lack of hope



### Low Resilience & Suicide

#### Australia:

One police officer, paramedic or firefighter is taking their own life every six weeks

(National Coronial Information System Intentional Self-Harm Among Emergency Services Personnel 2015)



It is important to ask the person directly if they are feeling suicidal or if they have been thinking about suicide



## What to do and say if suspect suicidal thoughts or they tell you they are thinking of..

Listed below are some ideas to help you start the conversation:

- "I've noticed that you haven't been yourself lately, is everything ok with you?"
- "I'm worried about you. I'm wondering if we can talk about what's troubling you?"
- "You've seemed really (down/sad/angry/unhappy) lately. I'm worried that you might be thinking of hurting yourself or suicide. Can we talk about this?"

# Don't...

- Don't keep or agree to secrets that could lead to the person harming themselves.
- Don't try to deal with this situation alone, encourage the person to get professional help and support them to do so...
- Don't leave them alone... until you know they have a new plan, change of mind, have contacted support, have someone else there with them..

Seek to have professional help in place – helpline contacted, GP, psychologist..

#### Let them know...

- Let the person at risk know that you are concerned and that you care
- Let the person know that you have noticed a change in them
- Be honest and genuine in your concern.
- Acknowledge that you understand that the person is experiencing a lot of pain at present.
- Show respect and be as understanding as possible about their situation.
- Maintain eye contact and open body language.

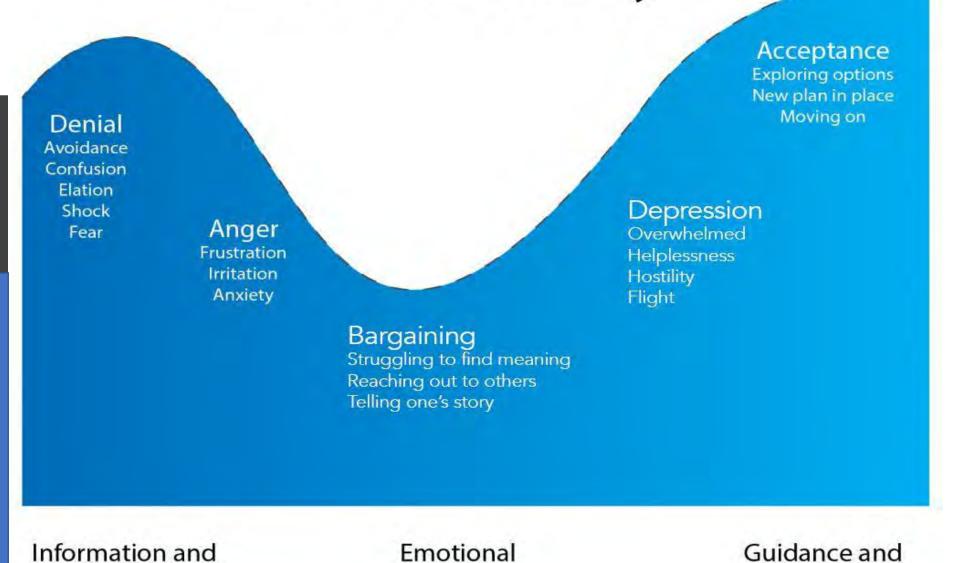
Seek to have professional help in place – helpline contacted, GP, psychologist...

Kübler-Ross Grief Cycle

The psychology of Grief...

Going through PTSD, contemplating suicide; Being low in resilience; (Feels like loss and grief...)

Communication



Support

Direction





#### MENTAL

AWARENESS
ADAPTABILITY
DECISION-MAKING
POSITIVE THINKING



#### PHYSICAL

ENDURANCE NUTRITION RECOVERY STRENGTH



#### SOCIAL

FAMILY
COMMUNICATIONS
CONNECTEDNESS
SOCIAL SUPPORT
TEAMWORK



#### SPIRITUAL

PERSEVERANCE
PERSPECTIVE

**Resilience Provides Balance to Life** 

### The Resilient Person

- Self Esteem/self efficacy
- Sets goals
- Learns from mistakes
- Accepts
- Solves problems
- Self aware (EQi)

Seeks assistance
 Self Control
 Optimistic
 Conner and Davidson, 2003)

Social skills
AND ABILLITY TO SEEK
ASSISTANCE
FROM OTHERS
PATTERNS



#### Redefine your purpose



Who am I..



Draw yourself a new self image



Write a vision statement



List your top five values



Set yourself life goals

# Narrative

#### Rebuild your Resilience: Change the narrative...

- Create your new life "tag line"
- Title of your autobiography would be...
- Write the script for your life now...
- Self affirmations internal messages
- Post it notes I am Ok!!
- Use a journal to write your narrative

#### Find the silver linings...

Reframe your inner dialogue

- Look for the silver lining in a crisis
- Talk about the silver lining to others
- Talk about what is working for you
- Talk about how you manage..



# There's *nothing* you can't overcome. Any fear can be conquered if you are willing to find answers.

Face your Fears..

- 1. Call it out
- 2. Describe how it feels and where
- 3. Know the trigger
- 4. Renew your goal to face your fear
- 5. Face it in small doses feel it and let it go
- 6. Feel the fear and check yourself "ok now"
- 7. Take bigger steps
- 8. Change the feeling now not fear anymore its..

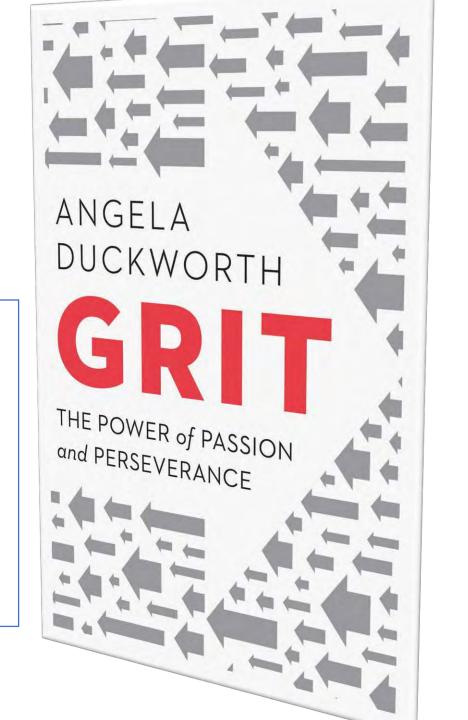
You need to find this again..



The Power of Passion and Perseverance

## Talent x **Effort** = Skill Skill x **Effort** = Achievement

- Perseverance
- Passion
- Goal focused life
- Be a problem solver
- Solution focused
- Optimism belief you can and will
- Growth mindset desire to learn & grow





#### Connect

- Peer Support Tribe mentality
- Family support
- Social events
- Hobby or sports groups

Feeling part of a group helps us feel safe and helps us cope with the challenges we face



Take your MEDS for Mental Health ...

(Meditation, Exercise, Diet, Sleep)

#### Focus on these four goals:

Meditation – mental training

Exercise – physical training

Diet – Increase healthy energy food

Sleep – recharge and clear away toxins from distress



#### 8 STEPS TO BECOME MORE RESILIENT



1 Accept Change



2 Learn Continuously



3 Take Charge



4 Define Purpose



5 Create Balance



6 Cultivate Relationships



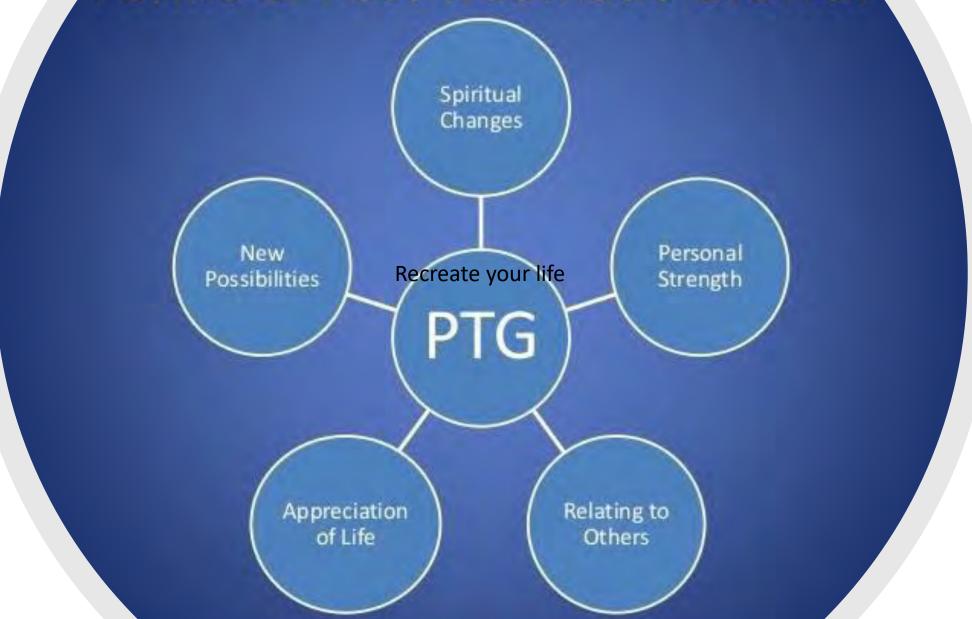
7 Reflect



8 Reframe Skills



#### Forms of Post Traumatic Growth

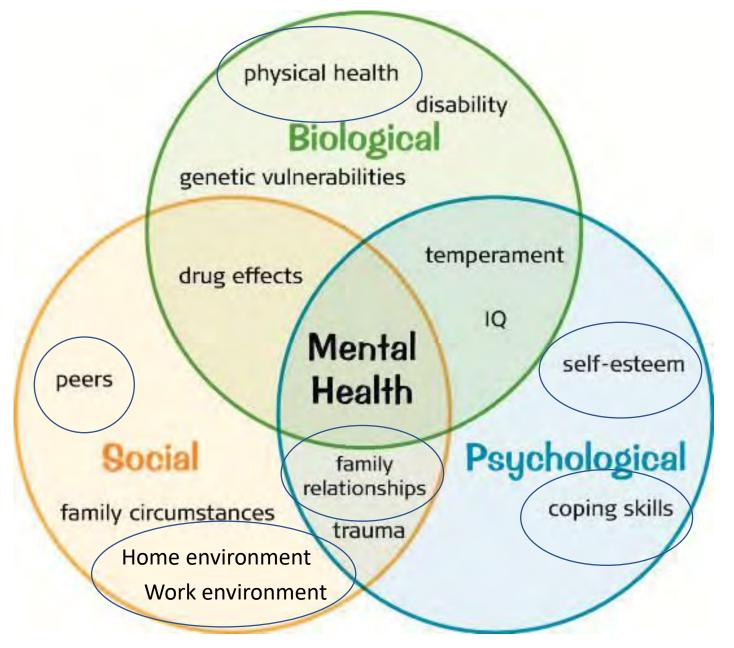


#### Mental Health Model

Biopsychosocial (BPS) model

#### Resilience

You need to build all three circles to be strong to stay resilient..





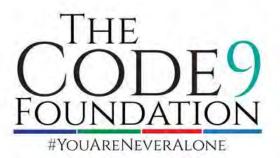
#### 2020 INFORMATION PACK



MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER — TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2020 THE VILLE, TOWNSVILLE QLD

SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 8 NEW ZEALAND'S FRONT LINE WORKERS

## Further Study needed..







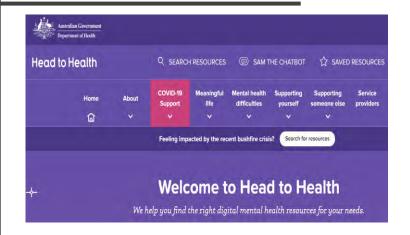




- Online websites and apps
- Code 9 education app: Edapp







If you need help call the 24 hours helplines & contact your GP

#### Code 9 - Edapp

Micro-lessons and discussion group.

#### Aim:

- To learn
- To remind yourself
- To share ideas with each other in a learning environment
- To refresh your memory







