

Chelsey Dewson – Forensic Psychologist
PhD Candidate (Investigative Psychology), M.Psych (Forensic), PgDip (Psychology), B. Soc Sci
(criminology/psychology), M.A.P.S., Member of Forensic College (APS)

ACCREDITATIONS:

- Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia
- A Full Member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS)
- A Member of the Forensic College of the Australian Psychological Society
- A Member of International Research Centre for Investigative Psychology

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

My employment in the justice sector started in 2004 when I worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice as an Officer at Cobham Juvenile Justice Centre (JJC) and a Restorative Justice Convenor in the community. Upon receiving provisional registration as a psychologist in 2006, I was appointed as the Centre Psychologist at Cobham JJC where I provided psychological services to juveniles on remand. In 2008 I transferred to Corrective Services NSW where I remained for eight years. During this time, I worked in various capacities, including Assessment Psychologist for State-wide Disability Services, and Centre Psychologist at Long Bay Correctional Centre. For six years I worked in Sex and Violent Offender Therapeutic Programs (SVOTP) in the Custody Based Intensive Treatment Unit (CUBIT) where I provided assessment and intervention to high risk offenders. I took on a number of additional roles including Acting Therapeutic Manager of CUBIT and provided assessment for the Serious Offender Assessment Unit (SOAU).

I am a Commissioned Officer in the Australian Army having worked in the Royal Australian Corps of Military Police and briefly in the Australian Army Psychology Corps. I joined in 2003 and in 2006 I graduated from the Royal Military College (RMC) with a number of accolades including: the RMC 1st place in tactical operations award; the Royal NSW Regiment award for 'excellence in defensive operations'; and, the Sydney University Regiment award for 'most demonstrated leadership'. In 2011, I transferred to the standby reserves where I remain to date. In private practice I have a passion for working with service members and am accredited to provide psychological services through Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) and Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS). I have a specific interest in trauma including post-traumatic stress disorder.

Whilst the bulk of my work has been forensically orientated, I also have experience providing clinical interventions for various psychological conditions and presentations. I am a Medicare approved clinician and am accredited to provide services through Work Cover and Motor Accidents Authority. I am accredited through the State Debt Recovery Office to provide treatment under Work Development Orders. I am a member of Australian Sexologists and provide evidence-based practices to individuals and couples experiencing issues relating to sexual health. I have experience providing assessments on behalf of Family and Community Services for kinship/care matters being heard through the Family Court.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

I am currently writing a PhD at the University of Huddersfield in the United Kingdom with Professor David Canter and Dr Donna Youngs. My research is investigating the criminal narratives and crime scene behaviours of sexual offenders who perpetrate against children. This research is part of an international project into the narratives of offenders. I have a Masters Degree in Forensic Psychology from the University of Western Sydney; during which I completed a thesis titled "the impact of jurors affect on jury decision making". I completed a Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology and a Bachelor of Social Science with a double major in Criminology and Psychology, through the University of Western Sydney. I have presented both domestically and internationally, including for the European Association of Psychology and Law.