



# Relationships Australia

## ACADEMIC STAFF PROFILES

### SYDNEY

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#### **David Allan BSW (Hons.Cl.) MSW**

##### **Manager of RAPS: Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service**

David graduated from the University of NSW with the University Medal and worked in Community Health before coming to Relationships Australia in 1990. At Relationships Australia he has worked and supervised in both the Couple Therapy and Family Therapy Programs. David has been a coordinator of Relationships Australia Professional Education Program and has taught in all Relationships Australia clinical training programs as well as in a variety of other postgraduate and undergraduate courses. His approach to therapy draws on self psychology and post Milan models.

#### **Gisela Adams BA (Psych) MA (Applied Psychology)**

##### **Clinical Coordinator - North Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Gisela is a registered psychologist with more than 12 years experience working therapeutically with individuals, couples and families. She is co-ordinating and supervising the clinical component of and training in the Graduate Diploma program of Relationships Australia NSW as well as delivering training and supervision to professionals in a number of settings. She also has been running groups for nine years (educational-therapeutic in RA's Professional Education Program) Some of those courses included 'After Separation', 'Men and Relationships' 'Parenting after Separation' Step Families and 'Couple Communications' and Gisela also co-ordinates and facilitates the domestic violence men's group 'Taking Responsibility'. She also has extensive experience in integrating couple and sexual therapy in her clinical practice. Over the years she has taken a particular interest in intimacy, attachment, sexuality, gender issues and domestic violence as well as a range of other issues affecting individuals, couples and families.

#### **Cathy Bettman Cert IV WTA; BA, Post Grad Dip in Conflict Res; M. Couple/Family Ther., M.C'ling. PhD.**

##### **Academic Head – Australian Institute for Relationship Studies**

Cathy has been employed as a counsellor in the North Region of Relationships Australia since 1999. She was a Lifeline Training Co-ordinator before that for 5 years and a counsellor for 13 years. She has co-facilitated the men's group "Taking Responsibility", coordinated the Charles Sturt University Graduate Diploma program and is involved in both the UNSW Masters in Couple/Family Therapy and the Graduate Diploma of Systemic Therapy (Family/Couple).

#### **Jenny Douglas BSW, Cert IV WTA. MA (Couple Family Therapy)**

##### **Clinical Coordinator - South-East Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

She has been working with children, families and couples for over 20 years and has particular interest in doing reparative work in the area of family violence, post separation and chronic illness. Jenny has extensive experience in the provision of clinical supervision, providing clinical support and training for individual counsellors and teams. Jenny has previously taught in the undergraduate school of social work and has been teaching regularly in the Graduate Diploma program and more recently in the Masters Program in partnership with UNSW at RA.

**Sue Fraser MA (Cultural Psych), IGL, CAPA, Cert. IV WTA**

Sue has worked for Relationships Australia since 1988 in a variety of roles including Coordinator of Group Work, groupleading, supervision of group leaders, individual and couple counselling and as a trainer. Before this she worked, trained and supervised in community health and education and in the volunteer sector. Her focus of work has covered many areas including parenting, separation and divorce trauma with adults and children, support of Carers, self awareness, communication skills and drug and alcohol issues. She has a special interest in mental health.

**Irene Gaffney B.S.W. Grad. Diploma of Individual, Couple and Family Therapy, Master of Counselling, Cert IV WTA**

Over the past 20 years Irene has worked in both government and non-government agencies, the last 9 years with Relationships Australia. She has experience in individual and couple Counselling, groupwork, community work and training. Her particular interests are in couple therapy and access and equity issues

**Anne Gilchrist MA (Psychology) BA (Psychology & Education) Cert IV Assessment & Training in Counselling and Family Therapy.**

Anne has worked with individuals, couples, families and groups over the past 20 years in a range of settings including Welfare, Mental Health, TAFE & Childcare. Since 1996 Anne has been employed as a group facilitator, group supervisor, trainer and project worker with Relationships Australia, using systemic, experiential & strengths based approaches to work with both families and professionals around parenting and relationship issues.

**Ruby-Jo Hawkett BSc MA (Pass), Dip Ed, Grad Dip Fam.Ther, Cert IV WTA, Grad Dip Community Management**

**Manager - North Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Ruby-Jo has worked as a couple and family therapist since 1989 and as a supervisor, clinical coordinator, and couple and family therapy teacher since joining Relationships Australia in 1995. Ruby-Jo is a registered psychologist and has worked in a range of professional settings in the fields of Community Services, Education and Health for more than 20 years.

**Kylie Hitchman BSc. Psych. Hons. UNSW.**

Kylie has worked as a registered and practicing psychologist for 18 years. She has post graduate qualifications in Couple therapy, Family therapy and Systemic Emotionally Focused Therapy. For the past 6 years Kylie has been working at Relationships Australia as a couple/ family counsellor as well as a group leader and course trainer. She has also worked as a family therapist in the public and private health system and has run her own private practice.

**Kerrie James BSW; MSW; M.Litt.**

Kerrie currently lectures in social work at UNSW. Areas include counseling individuals, couples and families; group work and trauma studies. Since 1980 Kerrie has taught and supervised professional therapists and was the Clinical Director at Relationships Australia NSW from 1986 to 2004. Kerrie was awarded the ANZJFT Special Award for Distinguished Contributions to Family Therapy in 1999 and has published in the areas of models of family therapy, domestic violence, gender issues, attachment and forgiveness.

**Patty Lee BA, Med, Dip Ed, Grad Dip Fam Therapy, Cert Clin Sup., Cert IV WTA  
Clinical Coordinator – South/East Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Patty has worked in Community Health, Drug and Alcohol with Adolescents and families, TAFE and Relationship and Family Counselling (since 1995). She works as a therapist, trainer and clinical supervisor. She has been registered as a Psychologist since 1994. Prior to this she worked in Community Development and Youth and Family Support work.

***Pam Lewis BSW, Grad. Dip. Couple/Family Ther., Cert IV WTA***

**Director of Client Services - Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Pam has worked with families, couples and individuals at RAPS - Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service, a specialist program of Relationships Australia (NSW) since 1992. She has supervised the clinical component of the UNSW Masters of Couple and Family Therapy and the Graduate Diploma program of Relationships Australia, as well as delivering training and supervision to professionals in a number of settings. Her particular interests include adolescent violence and suicide prevention among the range of issues affecting adolescents and their families.

***Kerrie McFadden, DSW (UNSW), Cert IV Workplace Training***

**Manager of Family Skills, Relationship Education and Family Safety Programs for Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Kerrie is a social worker with post graduate qualifications in family therapy, child psychotherapy and workplace training. She has had 22 years experience in child and family therapy and groupwork in a range of clinical settings. Her experience encompasses service delivery, service development, professional training, management and supervision.

Her current work role as program manager encompasses the development, delivery and evaluation of therapeutic and educational programs and seminars for men, women, parents, children and whole families delivered in diverse community venues (eg. schools, neighbourhood centres, rural locations etc).

***Lyndal Power MSW, Cert IV WTA***

**Clinical Coordinator RAPS: Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service**

Lyndal is a UNSW Social Work graduate (Hons1) and a graduate of UNSW's Masters of Couple and Family Therapy Course. She has provided individual and family therapy since 1989. In community health settings, Lyndal worked with parents and children from 0 to 18 years of age. She has conducted a range of parenting groups including ethnic specific parenting groups.

Since 1998, Lyndal has been working at RAPS Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service. She has provided supervision, presented on adolescent attachment and supervised the clinical component of Relationships Australia (NSW) Graduate Diploma of Family Therapy. She has undertaken several research projects at RA. She is in touch with the latest developments in the field of relationships therapy. As president of the NSW Family Therapy Association, Lyndal convened the Australian Family Therapy Conference in Sydney in 2005.

***Carolyn Richards BA(Psych) Dip Ed, Grad.Cert.C'ling, Grad.Dip.Fam.Ther., Grad.Dip.Cple.Ther, IGL***

**Coordinator, Diploma of Counselling and Groupwork, North Region**

Carolyn has more than 25 years professional experience as a teacher, trainer, group leader and therapist. Carolyn thrives on diversity and works with individuals, children, couples and families in a wide variety of settings as well as working in the community on a number of projects. Carolyn is at present the Clinical Co-ordinator and Relationship Education Co-ordinator for the North Region RA NSW.

***Elisabeth Shaw BA (Hons), Dip (FamTher), MMgt (Comm), Grad. Dip. Prof. Ethics Cert IV WTA.***

Elisabeth is a Registered Psychologist with 18 years experience in individual, couple and family therapy as well as clinical and management supervision in a range of contexts. She has regularly presented and published papers on clinical practice issues, most recently on supervision and clinical governance. She has particular interests in issues relating to attachment and intimacy, violence and sexuality, and is currently co-editing a book on couple therapy for Psychoz Publications. Previously a Director of Relationships Australia, she has gone on to teach in the human resource management field and provide management coaching and consultancy, utilising management and psychosocial theories, with a particular interest in effective governance, relationships in the workplace and the living practice of ethics.

**Nese Sozen BA (Soc.) Dip (Psych) MA (Psych), M. Ed.(H.Ed.), Cert IV WTA  
Clinical Coordinator – West Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Nese is a registered psychologist and family therapist. She has more than 20 years counselling and group work experience. Nese has been with Relationships Australia since 1995. Nese is involved in counselling, group work, training and special project programs. She specialises in addictive and cross-cultural counselling.

**Yelena Udy BA(psych), MA (Psych), Cert. Process-Oriented Psychology**

Yelena has over 20 years of diverse experience as a therapist, including individual, couple and family counselling and groupwork. She is a registered psychologist and has also worked as a trainer and supervisor. She has written and taught a range of courses applying the principles of process oriented psychology in a variety of professional settings. Yelena's particular strength is bringing her creativity to assist participants to draw out their inherent skills.

**Anita Vosper BSC(Hons) Psych. MA Couple and Family Cert. IV WTA**

Anita has worked as a counsellor in a variety of community settings since 1992. She registered as a psychologist in 1995 and has since specialised in couple and family therapy. Anita is currently Clinical Coordinator at RAPS, Adolescent Family Therapy and Mediation Service and also works as a couple therapist. Anita has presented to professionals and the public on a range of topics including adolescent depression, adolescent violence and substance abuse. She is a lecturer at the Australian Institute of Relationship Studies.

## **NEWCASTLE**

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**Akivra Bouris B.Soc.Stud.,MSW. Cert IV WTA**

**Manager – Hunter Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Akivra has worked in child and adolescent psychiatry, adult mental health, sexual assault, disability and veteran's services. She has a number of interests including domestic violence, trauma, gender issues, social justice and cross cultural practice and is a former board member of the ANZ JFT. Since 1991 she has worked as a supervisor, trainer, Consultant and Regional Manager for Relationships Australia and as a lecturer and research officer at the University of NSW.

**Jenny Kell BA, Cert IV WTA**

Jenny is currently the coordinator of the Children's Contact Service. She has 20 years experience counselling individuals, couples and families. She also works as a group leader and family mediator and a trainer in the Professional Education Program. She currently provides external supervision in the community.

**Bob Osmond BA BSc (Psych) Dip Ed**

Bob has a teaching background and broad life experience over a number of disciplines. He is an experienced relationship counsellor with a particular interest in working with men as they attempt to negotiate their relationships. He has developed a successful counselling based anger management program in the Hunter region.

## **ILLAWARRA**

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**Denise Smith B. Sc (Psych), Grad. Dip. Couple. Therapy, Ass Dip Social Welfare.,  
Certificate IV WTA**

**Clinical Coordinator – Campbelltown/Bowral Region Relationships Australia (NSW)  
Coordinator, Diploma of Counselling and Groupwork, Illawarra Region**

Denise is a Couple and Family Therapist for Relationships Australia in the Illawarra. She has 27 years experience in clinical and community counselling, groupwork, adult education and training. She is a trained clinical supervisor; has wide clinical experience with children, individuals, couples and families; and specialises in couple therapy integrating attachment and systemic approaches.

***Heather McAlpine BA (Psych) Dip. Ed., AARC, IGL, Cert IV WTA***

**Clinical Coordinator – Illawarra Region Relationships Australia (NSW)**

Heather has had 19 years experience as an Individual, Couple and Family Therapist; Relationship Educator and Counselling Trainer. She has also been a Stress and Conflict Management Consultant for private and public organisations for the past 10 years. She is in private practice in Kiama. Her special interests are in writing and running Parenting Programmes, Emotionally Focused Therapy, Imago Therapy and Grief Counselling. In 2001, she was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study Marriage and Family Education in the USA and UK.

## **MEDIATION – Principal Lecturers and Mediators**

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***Jon Graham LLB, BA(Psych), BCom Cert IV Workplace Training***

Jon has been involved in the provision of mediator training and supervision with Relationships Australia since 1996 and was the manager of the Relationships Australia Mediation Service for five years. A solicitor and counsellor/ mediator, Jon has particular experience in the application of communication and conflict theory to workplace/community management disputes and family disputes. Jon is a lecturer in the mediation training program. Jon has facilitated many 100s of hours of work place grievances, and in team recovery meetings. Jon regularly mediates disputes, and provides clinical supervision and coaching for mediators. Jon has worked in the community sector for over 16 years and currently works as a consultant in communication.

***Peter O'Brien BA MA PhD***

**Coordinator, Graduate Certificate in Mediation**

Peter has mediated in over 500 disputes in family, neighbourhood, commercial, workplace, or financial conflict. Peter is also a skilled conciliator, trainer and facilitator. Peter mediates for the Relationships Australia Mediation Service, the Community Justice Centres, the Small Claims Division of several District Courts, and in private practice. Peter also conducts conciliations for the Health Conciliation Registry. Peter has been an academic and is a consultant to business, assisting in strategic planning and resource development for commercial organisations. Peter has been honoured by being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the General Division.

