

Working therapeutically with children who have experienced trauma from physical or sexual abuse



Cassandra Tinning
Director, Youth at Risk Project - ACT Health Directorate

Cassandra is a Social Worker who has been working therapeutically with children and young people who have experienced complex trauma since 2000. For many of those years she worked as a counsellor, then clinical supervisor, and then the operational manager in a multidisciplinary health service in Canberra for children and young people who have experienced child abuse.

She is currently working as a policy director for the Youth at Risk project for ACT Health, which aims to support collaboration in the youth mental health sector and establish a trauma service to support young people with complex needs.

Cassandra has a passion for collaborative and therapeutic work with children and families, and special interest in working with children with harmful sexual behaviours.



Dan Fighera
Senior Counsellor, Trauma Services RASA

Dan is proudly employed with Relationships Australia SA, a progressive not-for-profit social services organisation. He is the senior counsellor in our Child Sexual Abuse Counselling Service.

Prior to this, Dan worked in the Victims of Crime Counselling Service, Redress Support Service, and has also had roles elsewhere at Lifeline Australia and Youth Homelessness Service. Dan strives for a trauma-informed, culturally safe and restorative approach, using a combination of somatic, narrative therapy, compassion-focused therapies.

He also forms part of the reflective teams in single session therapy used by the Family Therapy Clinic service, the co-facilitator of RASA’s DBT skills group, as well as provide ongoing internal organisational and clinical supervision for colleagues within Trauma Services.



Kate Headley
Speech Pathologist

Successful communication is key to our quality of life. It is a means through which we connect with others, understand our experiences and express our thinking.

Across Kate’s career, she has had a passion for assisting people to be heard. This always involves working with the person with communication support needs and with their communication partners across their everyday activities and environments.

As service providers working with children, we become one of the child’s communication partners. This may require us to modify our own communication style, learn new communication skills and think about different ways to create shared meaning.



Facilitator: Chris Dolman
Senior Practice Development Officer, Emerging Minds

Chris Dolman is a social worker who has been working for the past twenty years with individuals, couples and families facing a broad range of concerns in their lives and relationships.

Chris currently works with Emerging Minds and the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health, as well as a narrative therapist with Country Health SA, providing consultations via video link to people living in rural and remote South Australia. Previously Chris has worked as a counsellor, supervisor and manager in a family and relationships counselling service.