

Kirstie Edwards

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Objective

To sustain and grow A Path To Follow with the purpose of supporting community members in a way they most need it; prevent, intervene and respond to mental well-being challenges.

Education

2005-2006	Postgraduate Diploma In Psychology Deakin University
2002-2004	Postgraduate Diploma in Psychological Studies Deakin University
1992 – 1996	Bachelor of Education (Secondary) Deakin: Rusden Teaching Methods: English, ESL & Psychology Majors: Sociology & Teaching Experience

July 2019- Current

Founder- A Path To Follow | Mentoring Program for Young People, their families and related workforce members

- Launch of a small business to support the mental wellbeing of the community via programs based in prevention, early intervention and customised response:
 - *Group Mentoring Program* supporting sport and recreational groups to establish and sustain a mentoring program that enhances coaching and life skills of its participants. Piloted successfully at Ormond JFC for two years prior to launch
 - *Youth Mentoring Partnerships* supporting young people with volunteer peer mentors who have lived experience.
 - *Family Peer Support* providing the missing pieces to support and guide families with a young person experiencing complex life challenges
 - Business Mental Wellbeing Support providing customised support and education to develop and maintain a mentally well workforce.

<https://apathtofollow.com.au>

February 2019 – Current

South East Suicide Prevention Network Co-Chair | Volunteer Role

- Planning, launch and maintenance of new network in the south east area
- Partnership liaisons to support the network and co-host prevention activities
- Chairing of network meetings and management of related documentation, meeting administration and communications to network members
- Social Media set up and maintenance
- Branding development
- Writing and submission of grants related to the prevention of suicide

December 2018 – Current

Child Safety Officer/Committee Member at Ormond Junior Football Club | Volunteer Role

- Lead of pilot Mentor Program over a two year period.
- Development of essential Child Safety Policies and procedures in accordance with legislation
- Investigations around child safety related complaints and incidents

March 2013 – July 2019

Program Manager-Child, Youth & Family | Connect Health & Community | Bentleigh East

- Operational Management and Clinical Guidance of 20 Allied Health Staff, Mental Health team, Allied Health Assistants and to a Counselling student program; including guidance on complex cases, often shared with other services including Child Protection, housing, family violence and other community/health services.
- Management of program budget; including salary and wages and operational expenses
- Full responsibility for recruitment of program members, inclusive of developing position descriptions, advertisements and completion of referee checks and onboarding program
- Managing the interface for Allied Health services between different funding streams; particularly community health and NDIS.
- Initiation and implementation of Child Developmental Forum for parents and professionals
- Part of Steering Group to design and implement of a new model of health care across the organisation
- Chair roles in varied working committees

- Representation in wide-ranging internal and external partnerships, including but not limited to: Gamblers Help, Department of Health and Human Services, Primary Care Partnerships, Family Violence and ChildFIRST alliances, tertiary institutions, Moira, Taskforce and local Councils.
- Governance representative on the Bayside Peninsula Orange Door & Integrated Family Services Partnership
- Significant contributions to strategic planning, fiscal management of primary health, writing of policies and procedures, evaluation & prototyping of new services
- Responsible for the development and submission of several tenders and award category submissions; South East Primary Health Network, NDIS, Bendigo Bank Pitches and various DHHS category submissions.
- Child and Young People's Safety Officer: Planned a thorough implementation plan for the roll out of the Children's Safety Standards, chaired the working group and led the application of the Children's Safety Standards throughout the organisation
- Held the Family Violence Portfolio for the organisation; writing an organisational protocol, training staff, liaising with various stakeholders, planning involvement in safety hub development for Bayside Peninsula and consulted on many Family Violence client cases
- Part of a team for whole organisation accreditation and sole leader in the DHHS Community Services accreditation
- Integral in setting up and participating in the committee that led a revised Planning and Evaluation process across the organisation
- Secondment to General Manager -Primary Health for a 6 week period.
- Co-Founder of Suicide Prevention Network for community members of all ages

August 2009 – Dec 2012

Family Support Services Coordinator | City of Kingston | Chelsea

- Audit preparation
- Service delivery design and implementation into new geographical area
- Experience acting in higher roles on secondment projects
- Leading and organising meeting schedules, chairing, taking minutes
- Active involvement in various professional networks
- Exceptional abilities in policy development and evaluation
- Experience in utilising child focused interventions, adhering to legislation and regulations
- Varied experience in writing reports and media releases for local government

- Educator to staff and community members
- Grant application writing and grant assessment experience

January 2012 – Aug 2012

Children’s Services Quality and Development | City of Kingston | Mentone

June 2008 – Aug 2009

Family Advisor/Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner/Community Liaison Officer | Chadstone Family Relationship Centre | Chadstone

Aug 2007-June 2008

Family Mediator and Outreach Worker | Uniting Care Harrison Community Services | Knox

January 2005 - January 2007

Casual Research Assistant | Monash University | Bentleigh East

June 2004 - June 2006

Sessional Educator/ Planning & Research Assistant | Family Planning Victoria | Box Hill

Jan 1997 – 2003

Secondary Teacher | Whitefriars College | Donvale

Jul 1996 – Dec 1996

Secondary Teacher | Cranbourne Secondary College | Cranbourne

Training and Further Education

- Dispute Resolution Practitioner-certified
- Family Violence CRAF and Specialist Response
- First Aide
- Running of Community Organisation committees
- Family Stars Outcomes Training

Awards

- Community Service Award for volunteer contribution to Ormond JFC community
- Nominated for Volunteer of the Year Award with Southern Metropolitan Junior Football League

Referees

Available on request