Robert M. Curtis

Member Australian Psychological Society MAPS

Learning Curves Psychological Consultancy
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Regional Practice Location: Shop 4/8 Pulteney Street, Taree NSW 2430

Private Practice Footprint

I first registered *Learning Curves Psychological Consultancy* as a business in 1995 and opened an Office in Winmalee (Lower Blue Mountains) where it operated for several years before relocating to the Manning Valley area. Clinics were then established in 2009 both at Harrington and Taree Medical Centres. As regional needs became better understood independent Offices were opened at both Harrington and Taree. In May 2016, *Learning Curves* consolidated its service and moved to its present CBD location at Shop 4/8 Pulteney St, Taree continuing to build its professional reputation as a reliable high calibre and valued service within the Manning Regional community.

My Tertiary Qualification Journey

My journey into the world of tertiary education began at Sydney University undertaking a Bachelor of Economics degree, with the much-needed assistance of a scholarship provided by the NSW Department of Education. I earned a B.Ec (Hon) degree in 1978, with majors in Industrial Relations, Economics whilst also accumulating three years of Psychology. After completing a post graduate diploma (Dip Ed) in 1980 as a prerequisite to Teaching I embarked on what now seems a relatively short period of time as a Secondary High School Teacher before I seized the opportunity to change direction with a post graduate diploma, Educational Studies (School Counselling) 1982. This allowed me to continue to work with children and young people in an equal but different role within School Counselling Services. The training involved rigorous studies in conducting psychometric assessments, an understanding of disability areas, general counselling skills and studies in developmental, educational, and abnormal psychology. This started what would be an extremely rewarding and lengthy professional career in School Counselling, working in various roles, both within Schools and Clinics. I again upskilled in 1987 and completed a post graduate degree at Sydney University in Psychology, Master Arts (MA), with subsequent registration as a Psychologist in 1991.

Current Accreditations

Educational & Developmental Psychologist	APHRA Registration PSY0001138292 (First registered 12th November 1991) APHRA Area of Practice endorsement & Approved Supervisor for Educational & Developmental Psychologist candidates • Medicare Australia Provider No. 2677787F • NSW WorkCover No. 7534 • NSW Attorney General Victims Services A00312 • Open Arms (Formerly VVCS) Contractor • EAP Provider: Benestar; Converge International • NDIS Provider 4-3LLK-1518 (Therapeutic Supports)
FCEDP	Fellow APS College of Educational & Developmental Psychology (Member since 11th July 2000)
IAAN	Member of International Association of Applied Neuroscience.
EMDRAA	EMDR Therapist

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Some Achievements Along the Way

My career in providing psychological services now spans in excess of 30 years with over 1000 formal psychological and biopsychosocial assessments undertaken and reported in that time together with thousands of individual counselling sessions ranging across paediatric through to senior adult clients. While working within the NSW Education Department, I achieved through merit selection, both senior clinic and school based positions responsible for providing not only a direct service to school communities (preschool-Year 12) and supervision of team members but also co-ordination of program areas in low incidence disability areas.

I have worked as a registered psychologist since 1991 when established under the NSW Psychologist Registration Board and now Nationally with APHRA and further in an endorsed area of practice in educational and developmental psychology.
I have achieved a 30-year membership with my professional association, the Australian Psychological Society (APS) in 2019. I first became a member of the APS College of Educational & Developmental Psychology in 2000 and have since been awarded membership as a Fellow of the College.

I was elected Chairperson of the NSW Australian Psychological Society (APS) Mid North Coast Branch in 2010 and served for two years. I now serve as a member on the NSW APS State Committee for Developmental & Educational Psychology.
Other markers of involvement include being awarded Certificates of Appreciation by the University of Western Sydney (WesTalent) for work in meeting the needs of Talented and Gifted Students (2000 & 2001); Certificates of Appreciation from NSW DEC for significant contributions made to Students with Learning Difficulties (1991) and regional Out of Home Care (OoHC) Students (2012).

I have had an ongoing role in the community serving as a Justice of the Peace in NSW since 1979. I have also undertaken culture awareness training with the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association in 2013 and undertaken previous units of study in Aboriginal Cultural Education delivered by TAFE/ North Coast Institute in 2009.

I am current with the Professional Development training requirements of the APHRA which requires that I attend training relevant to my expertise and practice. To bring neurofeedback and neuromodulation services into scope of practice, I completed neuropsychotherapy training under Adj Professor Pieter Rossouw and gained entry as a member to the International Association of Clinical Neuropsychotherapy (IACN) in 2018. I am currently a candidate for QEEG Diplomate certification with the International QEEG Certification Board (IQCB).

Ongoing training and certification has included EMDR therapist training and ongoing listing with a relevant professional body, the EMDRAA and in 2018 did further specialised training for EMDR use with children and adolescents; I am a Certified Resilience Coach with Driven; and a Certified Trained Practitioner for both Small Group and Individual delivery of the Secret Agency Society: Social Emotional Skills for Children (Social Skills Training Institute-CRC); together with formal training and experience with Triple P Positive Parenting Program for both Group and Individual (Enhanced) delivery; and the ACE (Adolescents Coping with Emotions) Group CBT Based Program for early intervention in depression in adolescents.

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Committees (extract)

- Member NSW Australian Psychological Society (APS) CEDP State Committee 2017-19
- Chairperson NSW Australian Psychological Society (APS) Mid North Coast Branch Committee 2011-2012
- Member NSW Australian Psychological Society (APS) Mid North Coast Branch Committee 2009-2013
- NSW DEC North Coast Regional Placement Committee 2002-2013 (Disability Support)
- NSW State Psychological Assessment & Advisory Committee (PAAC) 2010-2013 NSW DEC North Coast Region Representative
- Interagency Child Protection Committee (Manning-Gloucester-Forster) DEC Regional Representative (Health; Police; DoCS; NGOs; DEC; Sexual Assault) 2002-2004
- Manning Valley Interagency Prevention of Antisocial Behaviour Committee Member (Health; Police; DoCS; Housing; Dec; NGOs) 2008
- NSW Regional DEC Guidance / School Counselling Executive (Met West Region 1989-1991) (North Coast Region 2002-2013)
- NSW State Interdepartmental Planning (Health: FACS; DEC; Premier's Dept.) Special Education Initiative 1988

Work History (extracts)

My work in private practice commenced in 1995 and has been delivered across the lifespan and includes both acute and chronic mental health and developmental concerns. I have continued to apply my earlier expertise in the area of disability and learning as well as mental health-depression, anxiety, work injuries and trauma recovery. I have worked with a variety of referring sources: clients get referred under the Medicare BATMHC scheme; EAP organizations; GPs; Paediatricians; Psychiatrists; Medicare Local ATAPS programs; NSW Victims of Crime; Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (circa 2001-2020) now Opens Arms; together with NSW WorkCover and Victorian WorkSafe and now am certified by the NDIA Commission to provide therapeutic counselling to NDIS participants.

I have undertaken roles both as practitioner and program coordinator. I coordinated and supervised a team of school counsellors responsible for the delivery of psychological services to Regional schools in the Manning Area between 2002-2013. I was responsible for specialist school psychology services within the Westmead Hospital Multidisciplinary Learning Difficulties Clinic 1989-1991 and have experience in managing regional support programs for intensive reading; communication disorders; and adjustment. I have delivered psychological services within schools for specific purpose (SSP) and schools hosting classes for students with low incident disabilities: hearing; mild-severe intellectual disabilities; autism; mental health and emotional disturbance together with early childhood intervention services. This has afforded me a broad perspective in conducting Psychometric assessments and reporting.

I have been invited to present at regional and state conferences to both allied health personnel and Teachers. As Chair and member of APS Mid North Coast Branch Committee I have organized professional development and networking support for other psychologists ranging in issues: Trauma; Sleep; Acceptance & Commitment Therapy-ACT; Dialectical Behaviour Therapy-DBT; Interpersonal Psychological Therapy-IPT; Cognitive Control Therapy-CCT; Medications and Psychology; Imagery Reprocessing & Rescripting Therapy -IRRT.

I am approved by AHPRA to supervise psychologists applying for endorsement in the area of Educational & Developmental Psychology; I have supervised intern psychologists and psychology students undertaking Master level courses from the University of Western Sydney; Wollongong & Charles Sturt Universities as well as the work of psychologists in school and clinics.

I have been invited onto selection panels convened by NSW New England Health for allied health positions and School-Link Coordinator positions; Catholic Office for Guidance Officer positions; and have been the convenor of NSW DEC panels for the selection of School Counsellor positions to schools in the Manning region.

Evidence of my expertise and ability to work within a multidisciplinary framework can be seen in my inclusion on an Interdepartmental Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Committee and the eventual development of an Interagency Accord and signed MOU between Housing; Health; DoCS; Police; DADHC; JJ; and local NG Aboriginal agencies in 2008.

As an Educational & Developmental Psychologist I have worked in close partnership with GPs; Paediatricians; CAMHS / Health; Community Services: FACS & DADHC to better meet the learning and mental health needs of children and adolescents; ensure the ongoing professional development of team members and ensure best practice. I have received invitations from NGOs, Health and DoCS to contribute to the professional learning of their teams and look forward to community presentations such as a recent one to a group of residents at a Retirement Village on healthy ageing and dementia prevention.

Clinical Supervisor

Offering a professionally safe, accountable and high-quality service that delivers outcomes to clients requires active involvement in supervision both at an individual clinical level but also in those areas of practice that may involve specific expertise such as EMDR; Trauma Therapy; or may still be regarded as experimental treatments such Neurofeedback and Neuromodulation. I use a combination of approaches to make improvements, consulting my professional association's Professional Practice Management Standards (PPMS) for Psychologists together with peer / expert consultation and clinical supervision.

Current: Mr Shane Latimer PhD. Clinical Psychologist.