

Relational Approaches

Dr. Derek Brookes is currently Director of the training and consultancy service: *Relational Approaches*, based in Sydney.

In this role, Derek has conducted an independent research project that aimed to explore the application of restorative justice after a traumatic death and in a Victorian context. This included a community consultation process, the development of a quality assurance framework and training prospective facilitators. The project was funded by Victoria's Legal Services Board and managed by the Creative Ministries Network. He also assisted in the development of 'Best Practice Standards' and 'an Accreditation Scheme' for Restorative Justice Facilitators, on behalf of the Victorian Association for Restorative Justice.

In 2009-10, Derek worked as a 'Restorative Justice Program Manager' with the Programs and Strategy Branch (Courts and Tribunals Unit) in the Victorian Department of Justice.

Before arriving in Victoria in early 2008, Derek worked for seven years as a national RJ trainer and consultant in Scotland, with the charity [Sacro](#) (Safeguarding Communities, Reducing Offending). During this time, he developed national RJ referral protocols, best practice standards, training packages and an evaluation and monitoring system. He developed and worked as a facilitator in a RJ for crimes of severe violence project. He trained over 800 RJ facilitators in the contexts of youth justice, schools, prisons, residential units, anti-social behaviour and police warnings; and delivered numerous university seminars, conference papers and workshops.

Prior to Scotland, Derek worked as an accredited RJ facilitator for the NSW Juvenile Justice Department, conducted research for the Children of Prisoners Support Group (NSW), and helped to develop an in-prison RJ program in Washington DC.

Derek has a PhD in philosophy from the Australian National University, and has worked as a lecturer and/or research fellow in Australia, America and Scotland.

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