

Anna Curtis

I am a psychologist employed by Justice Health on the *Adolescent Court and Community Team*. Our team conducts mental health assessments on young people appearing before the Children's Court, with the aim of identifying those with mental health problems and diverting them to appropriate care and treatment. In addition, the team also provides comprehensive forensic psychiatric assessments in order to assist community agencies develop risk management plans for young people with mental illnesses who present a significant risk to others.



I first attended UNSW in 1992 when I began my undergraduate Science degree and majored in psychology. I later obtained a Master of Arts (Psychology) (Child & Adolescent) from UWS and a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Psychology from Macquarie University. Prior to my current position, I have been employed by several Area Health Services across NSW and worked for Drug & Alcohol, Child & Family, and Mental Health Services (both inpatient and outpatient), primarily engaged in the delivery of psychological interventions targeting young people with complex and comorbid presentations.

In 2009, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from Justice Health and having now completed four subjects I am halfway through the Masters of Forensic Mental Health. I have found the coursework really interesting and particularly helpful in my current role. As well as shedding light on legal jargon, the law subjects have enhanced my understanding of the court system and the relevant Mental Health legislation. The clinical subjects have increased my knowledge of the diverse and unique presentations one finds within forensic mental health. The quality of the teaching has been impressive and the lecturers could truly be described as "current experts in their field". As I am soon to have a baby I have deferred for one semester, but I look forward to recommencing the program in 2011.