Student placement with Corrective Services NSW

Dr Phillipa Evans: Director Student Engagement and Work Integrated Learning

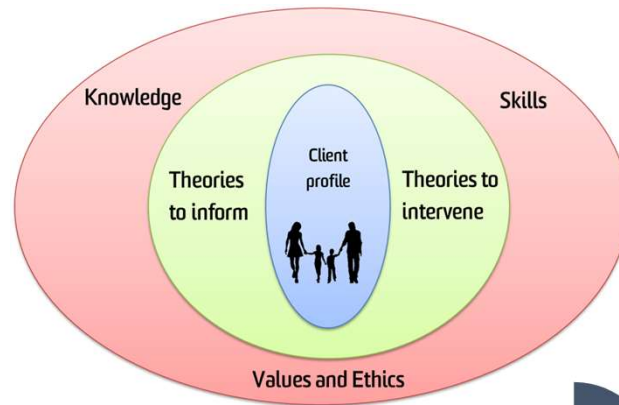Dominic van Gestel: Practice Manager, Corrective Services NSW

Neave Mackey: 4th Year Social Work Student

Organisational Overview: Corrective Services New South Wales (NSW)

- Government funded agency which also includes Child Protection Services, Youth Justice, Housing & Disability, Justice Services (Courts and Tribunals), Law Reform Commission & Legal Services (Legal Aid and Court Support services)

- Annual budget $2.2 Billion employing over 11,500 staff across the state, comprising of 36 prisons (including 3 privately run) and 57 Community Corrections Offices (DCJ 2022)

- The agency promotes the core values of Service, Trust, Accountability, Integrity and Respect with an overarching mission of reducing re-offending in the community (DCJ 2023)

- Broad organisational parallels with the AASW core values of respect for persons, social justice and professional integrity (AASW Code of Ethics 2020)

The Three-Stage Theory Framework
(Collingwood 2005)

Population overview

- An average of 34,788 people are on community-based orders are supervised daily. An estimated 82% are men and 18% are women .

- Current custodial population totals 13,126, with 93.4% men and 6.6% woman.

- Over representation of First Nations people across both custodial and community populations.

- High remand population.

(DCJ 2023)

Client Profile: Who was I seeing?

Mental Health

- Intersections of trauma and mental health

Alcohol and other drug use

Disadvantage

- Systemic treatment and betrayal by service systems

Reactive/ unpredictable population

Disability

- Cognitive and physical
- Increasing elderly population with mobility issues in walkers/ wheelchairs
- "Special" wing for mentally disabled

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Theories

Theories to inform

- Systems Theory
- Social Learning Theory
- Attachment Theory

Theories to intervene

- Crisis Intervention
- Dialectical Behavioural Theory
- Cognitive Behavioural Theory
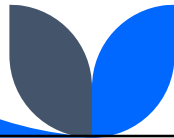- Task Centered Practice

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Skills

- Boundary Setting
- Advocacy
- Cultural Competence
- Collaboration
- Emotional Intelligence
- Problem Solving
- Crisis intervention
- Time management

Knowledge

- Policy
- Legislation
- Ethical guidelines
- Procedures and protocols
- Information technology

Values & Ethics

- Honesty and transparency
- Competence
- Dignity and worth of the person

Consolidating my learning

Supervisors support

Self-advocacy

Coaching and mentoring: Supervisor and peers

Feeling safe to be brave in my learning?

Reflections on the educational practices of Corrective Services

- Corrective Services 'Student Placement Policy'
- Principles of Reflective Practice
- Ethical tensions working with involuntary clients