**DENISE WILSON**



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**PROFILE**

**Highly motivated, growth-focused and resilient leader with over 15 years extensive experience in** **providing strategic vision and leading state and national teams towards successful projects and health initiatives** **within education, mental health and not-for-profit settings. Recognised as a collaborative self-starter with excellent communication and interpersonal skills, driving cross-functional collaborations, handling complex situations and guiding teams through significant change management. Highly skilled in stakeholder engagement, strategic development, and implementation, characterised by proactive and inclusive approaches, with a genuine passion for motivating and elevating others.**

**Seeking new executive management roles to leverage my extensive experience and leadership skills while making a significant impact on the well-being of children, young people, and communities.**

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* MOTIVATION & LEADERSHIP
* STAKEHODLER ENGAGEMENT
* CLINICAL CASE MANAGEMENT
* GOVERNANCE DEVELOPMENT
* INTERPERSONAL SKILLS
* CULTURAL COMPETENCY
* PUBLIC SPEAKING
* TECHNICAL ADAPTABILITY
* COMMUNICATION SKILLS
* COLLABORATION
* CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING
* STRONG WORK ETHIC
* STRATEGIC PLANNING
* CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT
* WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT
* PROCESS & POLICY DEVELOPMENT

**KEY ATTRIBUTES**

**EDUCATIONAL EXPERTISE**

Combines expertise in education and clinical knowledge, enabling a holistic approach to supporting the well-being of young individuals.

**CHANGE MANAGEMENT**

Adept in leading teams through significant change management, designing a roadmap for teams, and supporting National Advisors in implementation, stakeholder engagement, and clinical governance.

**PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY AND ETHICAL CONDUCT**

Consistently complies with internal and external policies, industry practice standards and ethical codes—Upholds confidentiality, professionalism, and integrity in all interactions and decision-making processes.

**ORGANISATIONAL AND TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS**

Recognised as a highly organised professional with a strong ability to efficiently coordinate and prioritise multiple tasks, consistently delivering high-quality results within specified timeframes. Detail-oriented with a drive towards delivering tasks with a high degree of accuracy and efficiency.

**EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE**

Possess extensive experience in working with and supporting children and young people, both in educational and mental health contexts, demonstrating a deep understanding of their unique needs and challenges.

**STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP**

Recognised for effectively providing strategic direction and planning, aligning operational goals with the organisation’s objectives while expertly managing contract and budget development, as well as fostering workforce development to drive success.

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

Highly skilled in the development and maintenance of strategic national stakeholder relationships and partnerships across the mental health and education sectors, facilitating strong engagement at both state/territory and national levels.

**ADAPTABILITY**

Proven ability to adapt swiftly to changing circumstances and effectively respond to highly charged environments. Proficient in problem-solving and navigating complex situations.

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**TRAINING**

**Finance for non-finance managers – Melbourne Business School 2023**

**Leading Through Change - Australian Institute of Management 2020**

**Effective Leadership - Australian Institute of Management 2015**

**Clinical Supervision training - Jane Wexler 2015**

**Supervision training – AnglicareWA 2012**

**Yarning Aboriginal way’ Understanding aboriginal culture 2015**

**Cultural Competency – AnglicareWA 2010**

**Psychological first aid - Phoenix Aust. 2015**

**’Hearing voices’ youth - Richmond Fellowship 2012**

**Working with indigenous clients - ASSeTS 2012**

**Working with CALD clients - ASSeTS 2012**

**AAFT Family Therapy Conference – current research brain development and trauma co-morbid conditions 2012**

**Domestic Violence risk assessment training – Dept. child protection 2011**

**Stabilisation methods for severely traumatised children – Dept. of child protection 2011**

**Protective Behaviours - Protective Behaviours WA2011**

**Working with Children and Trauma - Australian Childhood Foundation 2011**

**The Neurobiology of Trauma - Australian Childhood Foundation 2010**

**CIP (Child Inclusive Practice) training – Jenny McIntosh 2010**

**Family Pathways – Building relationships within families 2010**

**ASiST – Living Works 2006**

**EDUCATION**

**Post Graduate Diploma Counselling - Murdoch University WA 2007**

**Bachelor of Arts (Primary Education) - Curtin University WA 1991**

***PROFESSIONAL RÉSUMÉ***

**‘BE YOU’ NATIONAL OPERATIONS MANAGER AUG 2019 – CURRENT**

**HEADSPACE NATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**

* Oversee the development of contract-related activities with funding partners and transform them into practical implementation strategies that consistently achieve project deliverables.
* Collaborate with senior leadership from funding partners to co-design the Be You vision and strategic plan for each contract period.
* Support budget forecasting, reporting, and modelling processes to ensure financial sustainability.
* Assume responsibility for a national workforce of approximately 65 staff, actively contributing to recruitment, staff well-being, performance, and development by implementing comprehensive staff support frameworks.
* Ensure compliance with operational requirements for external funders and internal procedures within headspace.
* Effectively manage national advisors and state/territory managers, fostering strong teamwork and accountability.
* Oversee the development and maintenance of strategic national stakeholder relationships and partnerships across the mental health and education sectors while supporting state/territory stakeholder engagement.
* Collaborate closely with Be You leadership and the head of the school's division to guide state and territory teams in implementing the Be You framework, establishing robust processes for successful implementation.
* Lead the direction and national implementation of Be You, designing a roadmap for teams and supporting National Advisors in their work with state/territory teams on implementation, stakeholder engagement, and clinical governance.

***Achievement:***

* ***Provided strategic support for a world-first initiative implemented in WA and contributed to the Delphi study regarding this.***

**‘BE YOU’ NATIONAL EDUCATION ADVISOR FEB 2018 – AUG 2019**

**HEADSPACE NATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**

* Supported the national Be You teams with knowledge and strategies to implement a mental health initiative in educational settings/contexts, resulting in improved mental health support for students.
* Ensured that service delivery was aligned with education priorities and initiatives, contributing to the program's success.
* Led the professional learning of staff and oversaw conference involvement, enhancing the team's skills and knowledge.
* Utilised state-based roundtables and 'subject '-based events to engage stakeholders while supporting the broader external Be You service development and continuous improvement efforts, leading to increased program effectiveness.
* Led and participated in various national projects, driving positive change and contributing to the foundation's mission.
* Developed and oversaw national stakeholder engagement strategies, fostering strong relationships and partnerships.

***Achievements:***

* ***Designed and executed a national stakeholder engagement strategy for Be You, facilitating the seamless transition of external education sector stakeholders from headspace school support to active involvement with Be You after its launch in November 2018.***
* ***Successfully achieved the contract deliverable of 6000 registered schools by September 2019 through implementing state-based roundtables, strategic 'subject '-based events, and participation in national conferences, all while maintaining stringent budget oversight.***

**WA ‘BE YOU’ STATE MANAGER 2017 NOV 2017 – FEB 2018**

**HEADSPACE NATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**

* Led the strategic planning for the WA transition from headspace school support to KidsMatter/MindMatter until the launch of the national education initiative, ensuring a smooth and effective transition.
* Supported the change management strategies for state-based staff in alignment with the new initiative's objectives.
* Maintained a proactive approach to address challenges or obstacles to ensure a successful outcome.
* Fostered a positive and collaborative work environment, encouraging open communication and teamwork among state-based staff to achieve common goals.

***Achievement:***

* ***Leveraged leadership and change management expertise to provide crucial support for education stakeholders and WA school support staff, ensuring their continued engagement during the transition to KidsMatter/MindMatter.***

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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***PROFESSIONAL RÉSUMÉ***

**WORK HISTORY**

**WA COORDINATOR SCHOOL SUPPORT MAY 2013 – NOV 2017**

**HEADSPACE NATIONAL YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FOUNDATION**

* Implemented the national headspace School Support service in WA, pivotal in building strong foundations for mental health support in educational settings.
* Provided strategic direction and leading the school support team in WA and assisted school communities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from suicide deaths in the immediate, short term, and long term.
* Contributed significantly to clinical and program development through proactive leadership, creating psycho-educational programs for parents, education staff, and community agencies and services.
* Developed processes and frameworks, making a significant impact on policy development related to suicide response and planning.
* Provided direct line management and supervision to clinical and non-clinical staff, exhibiting exceptional leadership skills.
* Handled recruitment, induction, and performance reviews of team members, ensuring a highly skilled and motivated team.

***Achievements:***

* ***Led the implementation and operations of the headspace school support in WA in an initial hostile education sector environment.***
* ***Developed the strategies and management of the state team that saw it fully implemented with over 70% of schools in WA with suicide postvention plans and on all three education sectors notification lists to ensure the service received 100% of notifications.***

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**WORK HISTORY**

**‘YOUNG HEARTS’ SENIOR CHILDREN’S COUNSELLOR & CHILD INCLUSIVE PRACTITIONER | ANGLICAREWA OCT 2010 – MAY 2013**

**FACILITATOR/COUNSELLOR ‘MUMS & DAD’S FOREVER’ PROGRAM | ANGLICAREWA JUN 2009 – OCT 2010**

**PROPRIETOR/COUNSELLOR | OCEAN BREEZE COUNSELLING DEC 2007 – JUN 2009**

**GENERALIST TEACHER | DEPART OF EDUCATION VIC, WA & INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS WA 1992 - 2006**

**CONFERENCE**

**Generation Next Presenter at Each of Capital City Conferences (2019)**

**APACS/SPAWA National Conference Speaker (2019)**

**WA Children Commissioner Forum Guest Speaker on Supporting Children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing**

**Generation Next Conference (Presenter) “Supporting Anxiety in Children and Young People” 2018**

**Australian Postvention Conference (Presenter) “Working with Schools and Their Communities” 2017**

**Premier’s Breakfast – Keynote Speaker Young Hearts Program (2010)**

**Annual ‘Bright Night’ Gala Dinner – Keynote Speaker (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)**

**PANELIST**

**Queensland Family & Child Commission – Panel Speaker on Theme “Improving Youth Mental Health” (2019)**

**Kimberley Roundtable Suicide Prevention – Panelist, Chaired by Federal Minister For Health Susan Ley, 2016**

**WACCSO Conference, Panellist “Identifying Risk and Supporting Young People Mental Health” 2016**

**Delphi Study “Responding to Suicide In Secondary Schools” Panel Member 2015**

**PAI Steering Member (Kidsmatter/Mindmatters) (2014 – 2017)**

**Standby Reference Group Member - Kimberley and Pilbara Regions (2014-2016)**

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Party Member – Headspace School Support (2013 – 2015)**

**COMMITTEES**

**Board Member – Peel Language Development School (2016 – 2019)**

**Cypress Children’s Counselling Steering Committee Member (2016 - 2017)**

**WA Lifeline State Suicide Prevention Steering Group (2017)**

**Goldfields Suicide Prevention Reference Group (2016 – 2017)**

**RESEARCH**

**Department of Education WA School Psychology Services “School Response And Planning Guidelines for Students with Suicidal Behaviour and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury” Consultation Provided 2015**

**Department of Education WA School Psychology Services ‘Social Media Following A Suicide” Department Resource Development 2014**

**REFEREES**

**Available immediately upon request**

***PROFESSIONAL RÉSUMÉ***