

DR PETER SMITH

A Few Things About Me

PhD Medicine

My journey PhD under the supervision of Prof Emeritus Trevor Parmenter, Based at the University of Sydney Medical School, I researched the experiences of clients and consultants in the Disability Employment Service system.

MHlthSc (DD)

Two Years of in-depth exposure to the world of Developmental Disability at the University of Sydney under some brilliant minds such as Trevor Parmenter, Roger Stancliffe and Russell Shuttleworth

BAppSocSc (Coun)

My foundation degree in community health, undertaken at the Australian College of Applied Psychology. This is my counselling degree that led to my employment in the Disability Employment System. At the time of completion I was working as a support worker with Uniting Care, Brisbane,

CESP

APSE 1st Certified
Employment Support
Professional



Something that you might like to know

My PhD thesis entitled "A Systems Analysis of Factors that lead to the Successful Employment of People with a Disability" examined the current systems of employment supports for people with a disability, with this research will leading to a new understanding and providing evidence towards the development of new systems that provide better employment outcomes for people with a disability.

This research developed a new systems model of disability employment that will inform CDERP's work. The driver for completing the PhD was my experience of the DES system as a DES employee and time spent working for the DES provider peak body; Disability Employment Australia.





Fellow - School of Social and Political Science - University of Melbourne

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This is my connection to academia and supports my longstanding partnership with Prof Keith McVilly, Professor of Disability and Inclusion. Keith's a great guy and together we do some interesting work focused on Social Enterprise, Transition to Work and Customised Employment. Keith supports CDERP and its staff and our collective research.

Visiting Fellow - ILR School - Cornell University - Ithaca NY

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This fellowship underpins my work developing a new disability employment outcome measure.

I'm supported by Professor Susanne Bruyere and Thomas Golden at the K.Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment and Disability.

Contact Details

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Nothing like basing research on practical experience to drive the quest for answers. My thesis has garnered world-wide interest in this work and understanding of disability employment systems. This has led to global research partnerships examining different aspects of disability employment.

I consult, research and lecture on disability, transition and employment related areas in Australia, Singapore, USA and New Zealand and annually attends a think tank in Montana, USA run by the Centre for Social Capital working on issues related to disability employment, along with visiting providers and officials in the USA. I completed two terms as a member of the Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee. As part of our development of Customised Employment training for Australia, I've undertaken comprehensive training and certification in the USA. This is to ensure that contextualisation for Australia maintains the integrity of practice vital to ensuring true evidence-based practice is delivered and integrity of practice is maintained. I spend a significant part of the year overseas working and developing skills in relation to organisational change in the disability employment space in both open employment and supported employment.

In 2014, I was involved in a disability employment research project as an associate at Deakin University, School of Psychology, headed by Professor Keith McVilly. My current research focus's on social enterprise, SLES and Transitions, disability enterprises and open employment. My area of practice interest is organisational change with a focus of the disability employment environment and I'm currently undertaking CDERP's extensive employer research project that seeks to set out employer drivers for employing staff. This project will also inform CDERP's Customised Employment Training.

In his spare time he develops new models of practice for DES and ADE transition based on field experience, participant interviews, policy drivers and theory, along with his pet project; a new model of disability.