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**PSYCHOLOGIST & PSYCHOTHERAPIST**

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**POLICY SHEET - Victims of Crime**

**1-Apr-16**

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**BACKGROUND**

Under the Victims of Crime Act, people who have experienced a violent crime may apply to the Victims of Crime Tribunal for financial assistance to cover expenses that help their recovery, including counselling.

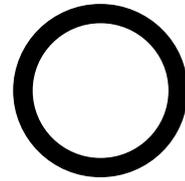
As a psychologist in private practice with the appropriate training, I am available to provide counselling for people who are victims of crime. In addition to my private psychology practice, I am employed on the staff of a local community agency's Victims Assistance and Counselling Program (VACP). As there is the potential for perceived or actual conflicts of interests arising out of these two roles, the following policy and guidelines apply:

**POLICY STATEMENT**

1. My private psychology practice is a generalist service, not specifically targeted at providing services to people who are victims of crime.
2. Clients and potential clients of my private practice who are victims of crime will be offered a referral to the VACP where appropriate.
3. If there a valid reason for accepting the client to my private practice, I will offer counselling to the client.
4. My private practice will be financially independent of the VACP that I am employed with and the community agency that operates this program.
5. I will not be involved in decision making at the VACP about VACP clients who are also clients of my private practice, other than for information provision if required.

**GUIDELINES**

1. My private psychology practice will not accept referrals or payments from the VACP that I work with.
  2. When my initial assessment reveals that a potential client of my private practice may be eligible for services with the VACP, I will recommend the client contact the VACP. If there a valid reason for accepting the client to my private practice, I will offer counselling to the client.
  3. Should a client who I have commenced counselling with subsequently reveal that they have experienced a violent crime, I will discuss with the client the services offered in the VACP (if eligible), and the suitability of continuing counselling in my private practice. Should the client decide to request counselling with the VACP, I will not continue counselling the client in my private practice. If the client decides not to take up counselling with the VACP, I will continue to offer counselling to the client if there is a valid reason to do so.
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4. Should I become aware that a client of my private practice requests case management or brokerage from the VACP, I will request the client's permission to disclose the clients name and my role to the VACP. Decisions regarding eligibility for case management and brokerage are the responsibility of the VACP. Where necessary, I will only be available to discuss a client's situation with VACP case management staff on the days I am operating my private practice, and not on the days I am at the VACP.
  5. In my marketing for my private practice I will not imply that my private practice has the support of the VACP or the community agency that operates the program. If, during the course of operating my private practice, I become aware that a referrer (e.g. a G.P.) is someone who I also have contact with in my employment with VACP, I will advise the referrer and the VACP of my dual roles.
  6. I will advise the VACP of any interactions between my private practice, the VACP or the community agency that operates the VACP.
  7. I will discuss with the VACP any other potential conflicts of interest that may arise relating to victims of crime that are not covered in these guidelines.
  8. This policy will end when my employment with the VACP ends
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