

Dr Alison O'Neill (Clinical Psychologist)
PhD, M Psych (Clinical), BA (Hons), MAPS, FCCLP

ACCREDITATIONS:

- Registration with the Psychology Board of Australia
- Member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) since 1998
- Fellow of the Clinical College of the Australian Psychological Society
- Authorised Clinician for the Children's Court Clinic
- Approved Supervisor for the Registration of Psychologists
- Accredited report writer with the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
- Member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC)
- Member of the Australian and New Zealand Infertility Counsellors Association (ANZICA)
- Member of Collaborative Professionals NSW

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

I am a Clinical Psychologist who holds a PhD and Masters' Degree in Clinical Psychology with over 20 years' experience assessing and treating children, adults, and families. I am a Director of Sydney Collective Psychology. I am an accredited report writer for the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), a Member of the Australian and New Zealand Infertility Counsellors' Association (ANZICA), an Authorised Clinician for the Children's Court Clinic and a Member of Collaborative Professionals NSW. My core practice is devoted to the assessment of families regarding family disputes, surrogacy, adoption, and child protection. Specifically, I write independent expert reports for a range of issues, including relocation, family violence, the impact of substance abuse and mental illness upon parenting capacity, when children reject a parent, contested adoptions, and parentage orders after surrogacy for the Federal Circuit & Family Court, the Supreme Court, and Children's Court. Previously, I was an Independent Expert on family violence for the Department of Home Affairs (HA), a Regulation 7 Family Consultant for the Federal Magistrates and Family Court of Australia for four years, and an authorised report writer for Victims Crime Tribunal for eight years. I have held casual teaching positions at UNSW and University of Sydney.

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:

I have a PhD from Macquarie University that investigated the quality of single expert reports in the Federal Circuit and Family Courts of Australia. I also have a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Sydney, which was conferred in 1998. During the Masters Program, I specialised in the assessment and treatment of both children and adults with mental health disorders. My thesis researched 'Panic, Anxiety and Depression in lung transplant candidates and recipients'. This thesis was conducted at St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst. In addition to the Masters, I have an Honours degree in Psychology and wrote two theses; 'Psychology and the Insanity Defence' and 'Predicting the response of stimulant medication in boys with ADHD'. I completed my Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney, where I did a double major in Psychology and Social Policy and Administration.

PUBLICATIONS:

O'Neill, A.T, Bussey, K., Lennings, C. J, & Seidler, K.M. (2018). The views of Psychologists, Lawyers, and Judges on Key Components and the quality of child custody evaluations in Australia. *Family Court Review*, 56 (1), 64-78. <https://doi.org/10.1111/fcre.12323>

O'Neill, A.T, Bussey, K., Lennings, C.J, & Seidler, K.M. (2021). What constitutes a high-quality child custody evaluation? A qualitative analysis. *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody and Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26904586.2021.1951419>

O'Neill, A.T, Bussey, K., Lennings, C.J, & Seidler, K.M. (2022) Steps towards assessing the quality and consistency of family reports prepared by psychologists appointed as single expert witness: An Australian pilot study. *Australian Journal of Family Law*.

O'Neill, A.T, Bussey, K., Lennings, C.J, Seidler, K.M, Porter, M.A, & Stamell, A. (2022). The development and psychometric properties of a quality measure for child custody evaluations. *Journal of Family Trauma, Child Custody and Child Development*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26904586.2022.2133785>