

# The Snapshot

**Happy New Year to all our subscribers!**

**Welcome to the FRMP Newsletter, Summer Edition**

MCM's Family Reconciliation and Mediation Program (FRMP) is a state-wide service funded by the Victorian Government. FRMP provides brokerage funding and other capacity building activities for the youth homelessness sector.

[Learn more](#)



**FRMP celebrates 20 years in 2025!**

This year the Family Reconciliation Mediation Program celebrates an amazing milestone. Our program has now been active for 20 years and has allowed countless young people to access therapeutic support and reconnect with family. We would like to thank you, our supporters, for engaging with FRMP and supporting young people to access crucial support and prevent them from entering the homelessness cycle.

**Fantastic learning opportunity with Sonny Jane Wise (@livedexperienceeducator) coming soon!**

Wednesday March 19th, 10am - 3:30pm at Docklands

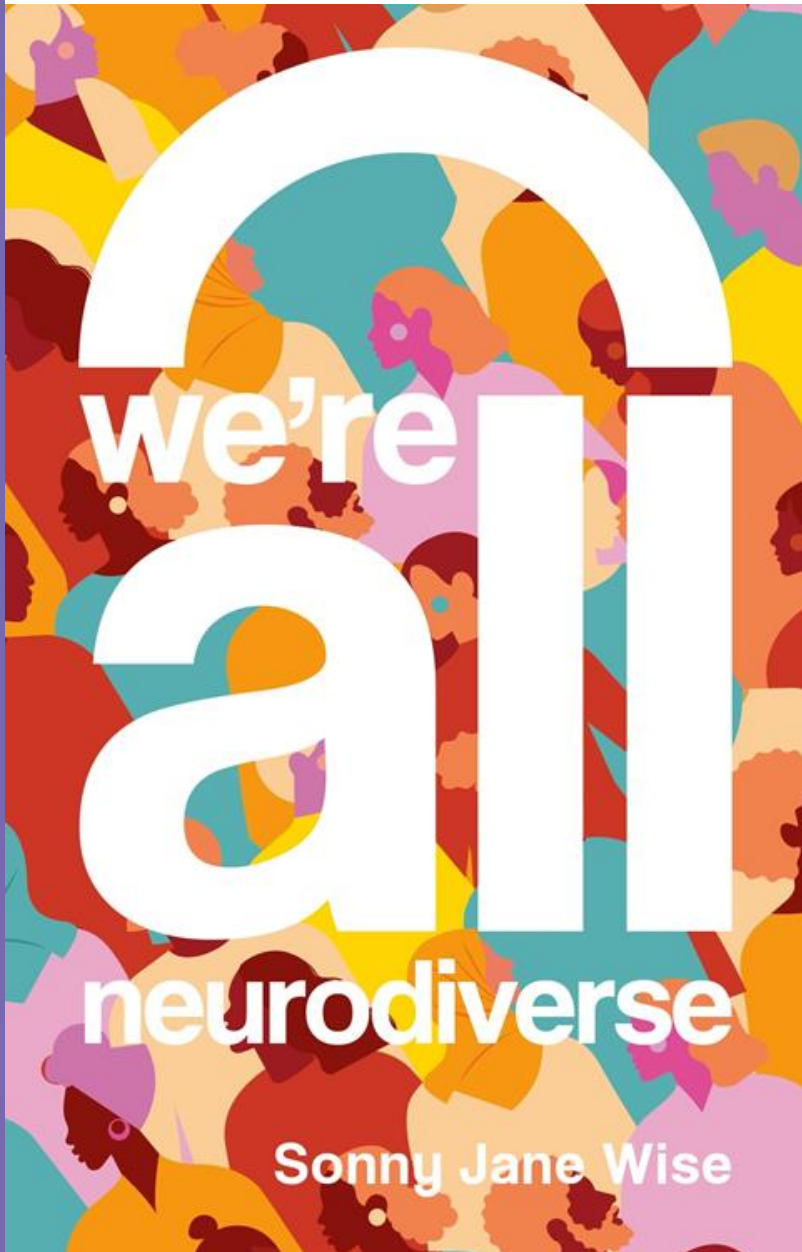
As part of Neurodiversity Week in March, FRMP is proud to be hosting a face-to-face workshop with Sonny Jane Wise (they/them). Titled "Supporting young people who are neurodivergent and LGBTQIA+ in a family inclusive way", the workshop will be open to youth homelessness sector workers across the state.

Sonny Jane ([@livedexperienceeducator](#)) is a trans, multiply neurodivergent & disabled public speaker, advocate and author. Sonny was diagnosed with Autism and ADHD as a child and grew up only hearing a deficit narrative about their neurodivergence. Since then, they have gone on to build an audience of over 100, 000 people online and has worked with organisations and services around Australia and the world to help change the narrative around neurodivergence and create a more neurodiversity affirming society.

They're the author of *We're All Neurodiverse* and the first neurodiversity affirming DBT skills workbook, *The Neurodivergent Friendly Workbook of DBT Skills*, which has sold over 70, 000 copies worldwide.

We anticipate that this workshop will be popular so there will be an application process. To apply for this fantastic opportunity, please click on the link below. Successful applications will be notified by February 19th.

[Apply now!](#)



Please meet Amanda Florence, our new art therapist in Hawthorn...



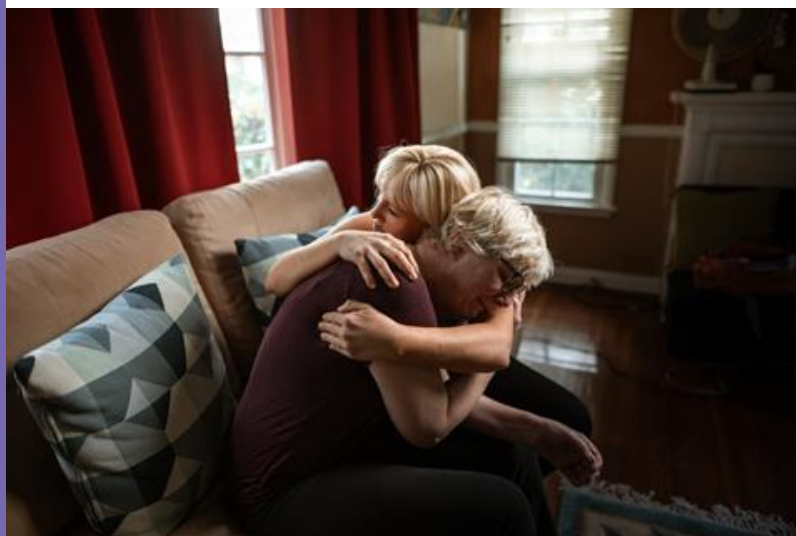
Hello, my name is Amanda Florence and I am an Arts Psychotherapist. I have been working for the past 12 years in the area of arts and mental health across community settings, clinical work and private practice. I love the diversity

of my work and enjoy connecting and working with people of all ages. My sessions provide a safe and supportive environment where we use art materials and creative processes to explore emotions, thoughts, and experiences that may be intangible or difficult to express in words. It is a therapeutic process that meets you where you are and grows with you. Art making is in itself a meaningful form of self-expression, and when used in art therapy, it can offer a way to gain deeper insight into ourselves, understand our relationships with the world around us, explore our sense of direction, and foster personal growth and development. In an art therapy session, the focus is always on the therapeutic process, more so than the artistic product, no art experience is needed. Whether working with paints, pencils, clay, collage, or other materials, the emphasis is on the process and the experience of creating, making sessions accessible for everyone, regardless of artistic experience or skill. I'm happy to introduce myself as a provider for MCM, Amanda

### New therapists on the FRMP register

Please also welcome the following therapists who have recently signed up to support young people experiencing (or at risk of) homelessness:

- Amanda Ewenson - Mental Health Social Worker (Croydon)
- Kimberly Howeler - Art Therapist (Footscray)
- Fiona Parkinson - Mental Health Social Worker (Mildura)



## Neuro-affirming Practice webinar now available for viewing!



Towards the end of 2024, FRMP hosted three 'Introduction to Neuro-affirming Practice with Young People and their Families' webinars, all presented by Kylie Winwood. Kylie is a neurodivergent speech pathologist with over 15 years experience working with children and their families.

We received very positive feedback from participants but if you missed out, a recording of one of the webinars is now available for viewing on our website.

[Watch the webinar](#)

## Contact Us

The FRMP team has allocated contacts for the regions:

- **Poppy Fotiadis:** Metro West (incl. CBD), Metro North and Loddon Mallee
- **Cassie de Ruyter:** Metro South, Metro East and Gippsland
- **Linda Schwan:** Grampians, Hume and Barwon South West

Please contact the team on **03 9977 0046** or [frmp@mcm.org.au](mailto:frmp@mcm.org.au) with any enquiries.



Family  
Reconciliation  
Mediation Program



Family Reconciliation Mediation Program (FRMP)

Melbourne City Mission

[www.frmp.org.au](http://www.frmp.org.au)

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