

## Rachel Aston | Senior Manager

Rachel is a senior evaluation specialist with fifteen years' experience delivering high-quality evaluations across government, NGOs, and the social services, health and education sectors.

With a background in anthropology, she brings a strong understanding of complex social systems and designs evaluations that are responsive to stakeholder needs and policy contexts. Rachel is recognised for her ability to synthesise diverse evidence and communicate clear, actionable insights that support decision-making and drive continuous improvement.



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*The dynamic work that we do across sectors is a continuing source of motivation. I am particularly interested in the use of participatory and empowerment evaluation approaches to increase the accuracy and utilisation of evaluation findings.*

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### Education:

- Master of Business Administration, University of Otago, 2022
  - Postgraduate Certificate, Publishing and Editing, University of Melbourne, 2011
  - Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, University of Auckland, 2010
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### Sector Experience: Family violence

Rachel has extensive experience evaluating complex initiatives across the family violence system, including reforms aimed at improving service coordination, risk assessment, workforce capability and inclusion. She brings strong expertise in evaluating multi-agency and whole-of-system initiatives, using mixed methods and participatory approaches to capture diverse stakeholder perspectives. Her work supports evidence-informed policy development and strengthens service responses for priority populations, including LGBTIQ+ communities and people with disability.

- Targeted Early Intervention Program (Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, 2023–2027)
  - Evaluation of Risk Assessment and Management Panels (RAMPs), (Family Safety Victoria, 2022)
  - Evaluation of the LGBTIQ+ Reform Initiatives, (Family Safety Victoria, 2023)
  - Evaluation of the Disability Practice Leaders Initiative (Family Safety Victoria, 2024)
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### Sector Experience: Health and disability

Rachel has led and contributed to evaluations across the health and disability sectors, including initiatives focused on mental health system reform, trauma-informed service delivery and national disability policy implementation. She has experience working across diverse stakeholder groups, including government, service providers and people with lived experience, ensuring evaluation findings are grounded in and reflect the realities of policy and service delivery contexts.

- Evaluation of the Australian Disability Strategy (Department Health, Disability and Ageing, 2026)
  - Complex Trauma Initiative (Eastern Melbourne Public Health Network, 2026)
  - Evaluation of the Close the Gap for Vision Roadmap (University of Melbourne, 2021)
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- Evaluation of the Mental Health Stepped Care Model (Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network, 2018–2020)

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## Sector Experience: Education

Rachel has deep experience delivering evaluations in the Victorian education sector with a focus on initiatives supporting inclusive practice, workforce capability and student wellbeing. She has strong experience working with government stakeholders to ensure evaluation approaches are responsive to system needs and aligned to policy priorities.

- Master of Inclusive Education and Graduate Certificate Initiative (Victorian Department of Education, 2025)
- Schools Mental Health Fund and Menu Evaluation (Victorian Department of Education, 2025)
- Strategic Planning Online Tool (Victorian Department of Education and Training, 2021)
- Teaching Tool for Kindergartens Pilot Evaluation (Victorian Department of Education, 2022)

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## Contact details:

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