

Consent Form

Professional Details and Registration

Dr Beth Vella has a Doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology completed in 1999. She is registered with AHPRA (Reg no: PSY0001124342) and the Psychology Board of Australia. She is a full member of the Australian Psychological Society (APS) and a fellow of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists.

Psychological Service

As part of providing a psychological service to you, I will need to collect and record personal information from you that is relevant to your situation, such as your name, contact information, medical history and other relevant information. This information is a necessary part of the psychological assessment and treatment that is conducted and is seen only by your psychologist.

Purpose of Collecting and Holding Information

The information is retained in order to document and remember what happens during sessions and enables your psychologist to provide a relevant and informed psychological service to you.

Consequence of not providing personal information

You do not have to give all of your personal information, but if you don't, this may mean the psychological service may not be able to be provided to you.

Storage of Information

Electronic and paper records are kept securely

Access to Client Information

At any stage you are entitled to apply for access to your personal information kept on file, subject to exceptions in the relevant legislation. If this is needed, your psychologist will discuss appropriate forms of access with you.

Confidentiality/Disclosure of personal information

All personal information gathered by the psychologist during the provision of the psychological service (including email, SMS, summaries of telephone communication) will remain confidential except where:

1. It is subpoenaed by a court; or
2. Failure to disclose the information would, in the reasonable belief of the psychologist, place you or another person at serious and imminent risk to life, health or safety; or
3. Your prior approval has been obtained to:
 - a) provide a written report to another professional or agency. e.g. a GP or a lawyer; or
 - b) discuss the material with another person, e.g. a parent, employer or health provider; or
 - c) disclose the information in another way; or
4. Disclosure is otherwise required or authorised by law.

Communication With Other Parties

Psychologists are required to provide feedback to your referring doctor if you are attending under a Mental Health Care Plan. It is also good professional and clinical practice to communicate with others involved in your care. Signing this consent form gives your psychologist permission to communicate with others involved in your care regarding information relevant to your treatment. Please be aware that you may rescind this permission at any time either verbally or in writing. In addition, psychologists are required to have supervision of their practice with a qualified peer to ensure quality of care. This means that your treatment may be reviewed with a supervisor who is also obligated to honour our confidentiality agreement. In these instances, the client is de-identified to preserve their privacy



Provision of a telehealth service

Where appropriate the service may be provided by telephone or videoconferencing. Please be aware that you are responsible for any costs incurred in relation to the provision of your own software, hardware and data usage associated with this telehealth service. Koru Psychology and Wellbeing will be responsible for the cost of the call to you and the cost associated with the platform used to conduct telehealth services. A telehealth consultation may be subject to limitations such as an unstable network connection which may affect the quality of the psychology session. In addition, there may be some services for which telehealth is not appropriate or effective. Your psychologist will consider and discuss with you the appropriateness of ongoing telehealth sessions.

Privacy in Online Communications

The privacy of any form of communication via the internet or a mobile device is potentially vulnerable and limited by the security of the technology. Koru Psychology and Wellbeing uses a telehealth platform called Doxy.me which is designed specifically for use by health professionals and meets the government requirements for privacy and security. It does not require any downloads from your end. Please be aware that email communication is not secure and has the potential to be intercepted. Koru Psychology and Wellbeing will take all reasonable measures to secure these communications. If unauthorised access, disclosure, or loss of a client's personal information occurs, Koru Psychology and Wellbeing will use all reasonable endeavours to minimise any risk of consequential serious harm.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)

A clinical note-taking tool, NovoNote, that utilises AI may be used with your consent. Notes generated by NovoNote will be reviewed and amended by your psychologist and stored as part of the usual client file. Data will only be used to provide you with a service. NovoNote is designed specifically for psychologists, complies with the Australian Privacy Principles and is compliant with AHPRA and HIPAA standards. Your psychologist will provide you with further information about NovoNote. If you have any doubts or concerns NovoNote will not be used in your session.

Fees

The cost of a standard 50-minute consultation is \$260 (unless otherwise agreed with your psychologist). This is payable within 2 days of the session by credit card (with an associated credit card fee) or via direct transfer from your bank (BSB: 033-034, Account number 766283). If you are attending under a Medicare Mental Health Care Plan, the current rebate is \$145.25. Once payment for the session is received, your Medicare rebate can be processed electronically by your psychologist. If you are not claiming under Medicare, private health insurance (extras) is available from most insurers. The client is responsible for ensuring that the appropriate referrals or paperwork for any external funding (e.g., Medicare, WorkSafe, private health insurance) is arranged and forwarded to the psychologist.

Cancellation Policy

If for some reason you need to cancel or postpone your appointment, please give at least 24 hours notice, otherwise you may be charged the full fee for the session.

Consent to receive psychological services

I, (print your name in Block Capitals)....., have read and understood the above consent form. I agree to these conditions for psychological services to be provided by Dr Beth Vella

Client signature Date/...../.....

Please Note: If after reading this page you are at all unsure of what is written, please discuss it with your psychologist



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