



Richard Denning

Director

Restorative Justice Unit

Legislation, Policy & Programs, Justice and
Community Safety Directorate

ACT Government



Richard Denning started as the Director of the Restorative Justice Unit (RJU) with the ACT Government in March this year. This service works with adults and young people who have caused harm and have been charged with a criminal offence, and the people who were harmed by those actions. The RJU can take referrals at any stage of the criminal justice process and since November 2018 they have been able to accept referrals for all ACT offences, including offences of domestic and family violence as well as sexual offences. Prior to this, Richard worked with the Dispute Resolution Branch in Queensland for 7 ½ years, including managing the multi-location and high-volume Adult Restorative Justice Conferencing service.

Richard holds qualifications in peace and conflict studies, law, legal practice, and conflict management and resolution. Richard is also an accredited mediator and trained conflict coach. Richard has also held roles as a project manager (examining the use of mediation and restorative justice to prevent and respond to elder abuse), a conflict management consultant with Emergency Services, a restorative justice convenor, and has worked in Queensland's Mental Health Court jurisdiction.

Richard is passionate about government restorative justice service provision and its potential to prevent and address issues associated with the careless and unexamined exercise of power. While managing restorative justice services he has focused on aligning the service with best-practice, building capacity to respond to domestic and family violence and sexual violence, improving accessibility for people with profound mental health challenges, engaging and educating stakeholders and referrers, working closely with professional bodies and universities, building restorative cultures within his teams, and supporting knowledge and capacity for working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.