

Neuro-Affirming Assessment and Diagnosis Workshop for Takiwātanga (Autism) & Aroreretini (ADHD)

What: 1.5-Day Workshop on Autism & ADHD Assessment and Diagnosis

With: Dr Tanya Breen & Dr Celia Falchi

When: Thursday 26th June (9am–4pm) & Friday 27th June (9am–12pm)

Where: Online Workshop via Zoom

Cost: \$320

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/neuro-affirming-assessment-and-diagnosis-workshop-for-autism-and-adhd>

Join us for a transformative 1.5-day workshop where you'll gain skills in neuro-affirming assessment and diagnosis for takiwātanga (autism) & aroreretini (ADHD) in adults and late adolescents. Led by Dr Tanya Breen and Dr Celia, this workshop will equip you with evidence-based, compassionate, and effective techniques to better support neurodivergent clients.

Traditional assessment and therapeutic models often fail to recognise the unique strengths and needs of neurodivergent individuals. Misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis can lead to ineffective treatment, worsening distress, and unnecessary suffering. This workshop offers a comprehensive, affirming approach—one that fosters understanding, respect, and empowerment for autistic and ADHD clientele.

Who Should Attend?

If you work in mental health, addictions, eating disorders, or forensic services, chances are you have encountered undiagnosed or misdiagnosed autism and ADHD. This workshop is essential for:

- Psychologists, therapists, and clinicians looking to refine their diagnostic skills
- Mental health professionals wanting to enhance therapeutic outcomes
- Anyone committed to reducing stigma and improving services for neurodivergent individuals

What You Will Learn:

- **The Process:** How to conduct a neuro-affirming assessment for takiwātanga (autism) & aroreretini (ADHD) for late adolescents and adults
- **Exploring Neurodivergence:** Understand takiwātanga (autism) and aroreretini (ADHD) through the neurodiversity lens.
- **Diverse Presentations:** Examine how neurodivergence presents across different populations, including females, and transgender individuals.
- **Costs of Misdiagnosis:** Understand the risks and what to look for in differential diagnoses.
- **Neuro-Affirming Assessment Techniques:** Learn best-practice tools for assessing late adolescents and adults using neuro-affirming strategies that prioritise the client's experience and autonomy.

- **Cultural Frameworks:** Integrate Te Whare Tapa Whā and other cultural models into assessments.
- **Observational Data:** Techniques for collecting and interpreting data aligned with neurodivergent communication styles.
- **Strengths-Based Reporting:** Write clear, affirming reports that meet professional and funding requirements.
- **Interactive Discussion:** Work through real-world diagnostic challenges with expert input.

Presenters:



Dr Tanya Breen is a clinical psychologist based in Hamilton, specialising in takiwātanga and intellectual disabilities. With extensive experience working directly with individuals and their families, she also consults with agencies, NGOs, and Ministries and serves as an expert witness on takiwātanga in the New Zealand court system. Beyond clinical practice, Dr Breen is a researcher and educator in critical autism studies. She has developed training programmes to enhance understanding and skills related to neurodiversity and psychological support. Her workshops are known for their practical applicability, engaging delivery, and

evidence-based insights, making her a sought-after speaker at both national and international conferences. As a strong advocate for the neurodivergent community, Dr Breen is an advisor to the Aotearoa New Zealand Autism Guideline, contributing to best-practice approaches in autism support and diagnosis.



Dr Celia Falchi is a registered psychologist based in Wellington, specialising in takiwātanga and aroreretini. In 2021, she founded Wellminded Psychological Services, a practice dedicated to providing comprehensive psychological services to the neurodivergent community. Her services include therapeutic interventions, diagnostic assessments, supervision, and consultancy, all centred around neurodiversity, advocating for the needs of the neurodivergent community, and offering professional development for mental health professionals and educators. Dr Falchi actively contributes to the education committee of the

Australasian ADHD Professionals Association (AADPA). She has become a recognised voice in the field, presenting at various conferences and seminars, and developing resources and workshops focused on takiwātanga and aroreretini. Her professional insights are enhanced by her lived experience as an ADHD'er, adding a helpful and unique perspective to her work and presentations.

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