

# Away from the Bench Life as a Genetic Counsellor

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# Outline

- My background
- The role of a genetic counsellor in an FCC
- What other genetic counsellors do
- What to do if you are interested in becoming a genetic counsellor



# My Background

- Completed VCE 1995
- Completed BSc 1998 Melbourne University
- 2000 - 2001 Grad. Dip Genetic Counselling (while working part-time at Fragile X Clinic)



# Part One Certification

- Course is 1 year full-time
- Held on site at GH Services Victoria
- All classes use problem-based learning
- Genetics tutorials given by clinicians
- Four week Placement & observations



# Part 2 Certification

- 100 Logbook Cases
- 20 long cases
- Genetics and counselling supervision
- Evidence of professional development



# Work History

- 2001 – 2004 The Royal Melbourne Hospital Familial Cancer Centre
- 2005 – The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
- 2006 – Back at The Royal Melbourne Hospital



# Services at Familial Cancer Centres

- All areas of familial cancer incl. Breast/ovarian, bowel and prostate & rare cancer syndromes
- Risk assessment, options for risk management
- Advice about regular health checks
- Genetic counselling and testing
- Psychosocial Support
- A reminder service about timing of tests - optional

