

Vale Naomi Audette

The Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australia (DTAA) acknowledges with great sadness the loss of Naomi Audette, to the dance movement therapy community and her family and friends.

Naomi was a Professional Member of the DTAA, and through this Association, had also achieved her place on the Register of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) , a significant achievement.

Her work as a dance movement therapist at the Royal Children's Hospital Mental Health Service Community Group Program from 2003-2007, where she developed and facilitated therapeutic group programs with children, adolescents and mothers and babies with a range of mental health issues including ADHD, behavioural issues, eating disorders, body image, depression, anxiety, self-harming and trauma related to family violence, was a great credit to her. Also the specific dance movement therapy programs she introduced whilst in this employment - 'Body Talk' for adolescent girls with body image issues and 'Blast Off!' for boys with behavioural issues. In her work she drew on her experience as a professional performer, acrobat, dancer and Clown Doctor to engage, connect and move and play with her clients. How wonderful to have had all these skills at her finger-tips.

The DTAA is proud to display details of the book Naomi co-authored whilst at the Royal Children's Hospital - "Therapeutic Games for Groupwork" – which is an excellent resource for practitioners in the field (www.dtaa.org.au/publications.htm). She was also involved in facilitating professional development training in DMT and therapeutic groupwork for allied health practitioners, as well as in her private practice facilitating movement groups for growth and change, utilising DMT, breathwork and other healing modalities.

Naomi was a light that burnt brightly for a considerable period of time in the history and development of dance movement therapy in Australia, and how sad it is that it couldn't have been for a much longer period of time. She will be sadly missed by the DMT community.

Jane Guthrie (President DTAA)
on behalf of the DTAA committee and dmt community
March 2011