



## TITLE OF THE BOOK

Perspectives on the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Practice, theory and philosophy, Second Edition.

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## INFORMATION ON THE BOOK

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The reviewer has no bias or conflicts of interest to declare.

## A review of Perspectives on the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Practice, theory and philosophy. Second Edition

### THE REVIEW

I love what is written on the second page as one opens the book *Perspectives on the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Practice, theory and philosophy*, "...if you have come here wanting to learn about creative ability, read every chapter".

Indeed, whether you are new to creative ability or an experienced practitioner (like Dain van der Reyden who says in her Foreword "*I no longer have a sense of consciously applying the Model*"), or whether you are someone who would like to grow in your knowledge and application of the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability (VdTMoCA), then this book is certainly most worthwhile.

Edited by Wendy Sherwood, contributors to the book are from South Africa, the United Kingdom and Australia, and include well-known names, along with experienced therapists, and younger emerging colleagues, offering a credible and accessible range of content.

The Second Edition offers an expanded and updated exploration of the VdTMoCA and aims to bridge theoretical foundations, philosophical underpinnings, and practical applications. All the chapters of the first edition have been retained, with relevant updates, and the book continues to showcase the application of the VdTMoCA in various contexts and fields of practice with the new chapter additions. This includes chapters focusing on clinical settings such as neurological rehabilitation, psychiatric intensive care, and inpatient mental health for older people, as well as non-clinical contexts such as community learning disabilities and school readiness.

Case examples vividly demonstrate application of the VdTMoCA in complex, real-life settings such as a multi-sensory stimulation programme in dementia care; low- and high secure forensic services; applying the Model in seclusion in psychiatric settings; rehabilitation for people with complex mental health needs, and relating a sense of self, sensory processing and volition in traumatic brain injury, all of which reinforce the Model's versatility. The inclusion spiritual dimensions of care reflect responsiveness to holistic practice principles.

The exploration of the ability to be creative and the macro- and micro-level factors influencing creative ability is thought-provoking. The notion that to create can be seen as a spiritual act that facilitates healing and wholeness is fundamental. The VdTMoCA is rooted in existential and humanistic philosophies, emphasising volition, motivation, and action as interrelated constructs that underpin occupational engagement (Van der Reyden et al.<sup>1</sup>). The Model conceptualises creative ability as the capacity for self-creation and adaptation through purposeful activity, which is a dynamic process observable across nine sequential levels of functioning. The text effectively articulates these theoretical assumptions, supported by historical context and philosophical discourse.

The book incorporates conceptual diagrams, glossaries, and reflective discussion points, enhancing its utility for teaching and self-directed learning. The text is complemented by appendices offering practical resources for embedding the Model in services. In particular, the VdTMoCA screening tool developed for nurses and healthcare assistants demonstrates how collaboration with other professionals and mid-level workers can transform services. This breadth of content positions the text as both a conceptual and pragmatic guide, making it relevant for clinicians, educators, researchers, and students.

The book is not divided into sections, but instead weaves philosophy, theory and practice throughout, epitomising that who we are, how we think and what we do are inextricably linked. It is highly recommended for occupational therapists seeking to deepen their understanding of the VdTMoCA and its application in complex and diverse practice environments.

The text's integration of theory, philosophy and practice positions it as a significant contribution to occupational therapy literature. There are some minor formatting and spelling errors, which can be addressed in future print runs. *Perspectives on the Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability* (Second Edition) succeeds in presenting a rich, multidimensional view of an occupational therapy model with growing global relevance.

## REFERENCES

Van der Reyden, D., Casteleijn, D., Sherwood, W., & de Witt, P. (Eds) (2019). *The Vona du Toit Model of Creative Ability: Origins, Constructs, Principles and Application in Occupational Therapy*. Pretoria: Vona & Marie du Toit Foundation.