



## IN CONVERSATION WITH VANESSA JANE DAVIES OF SKIN CAMOUFLAGE SERVICES



### Tell us your background and why you decided to set up Skin Camouflage Services?

I was invited to be part of a funding venture at a GP Practice in Yorkshire back in 1993 which involved managing and setting up the first skin camouflage clinic in North Yorkshire. Over the years this led to many rewarding experiences that supported patients who had encountered Scarring, Vitiligo, Rosacea and Melasma.

Parallel to this I introduced Skin Camouflage as a Higher Education degree module which in turn led to the development of teaching materials for both FE and HE education. As my educational career developed, I had the privilege of performing the role as examiner both in the UK and overseas culminating as a Higher Education Module Writer in skin camouflage for Edexcel.

In 1995 I joined the Skin Camouflage Network and became a committee member in 1997. This position offered the opportunity to be part of the accredited skin camouflage qualification with University of Hertfordshire and to offer support with study days and updates with SCN members.

My skin camouflage training for the British Army has been a great experience and my work continues to this day supporting Army referrals. Our 'clinic wrap around service' which originally began with our rehabilitation patients now extends across all our clinical practices.

Skin Camouflage Services achieved the Harley Street licence to practice in 2007. No actual 'services' existed other than skin camouflage alone, so it was a natural

step to create a business name that encompasses my background and our range of services...in the categories of Expert Witness Services, Rehabilitation Assessments and Clinical Consultancy. The name Skin Camouflage Services has remained the focus of my business and is respected and recognized both in private and NHS practice.

Skin Camouflage Services have since opened four additional clinics with three BMI Healthcare Hospitals playing a pivotal role in the expansion of my company. My work in this profession has now spanned over 25 years and I have earned the position of vetted Expert Witness and Skin Camouflage Consultant which I hope reflects my journey from my humble beginnings all those years ago.

In 2019 we are delighted to be working with a number of great charities, collaborating with the University of Sussex and connecting with Business Innovation to improve access to Skin Camouflage treatment and products across the UK. Exciting times ahead!

### What is skin camouflage and what conditions can it help?

Skin camouflage is the skilled application of highly pigmented creams to areas of skin discolouration or scarring to even out skin tones and improve the aesthetic appearance of a person's skin.

Skin camouflage can be of help to men and women and children of all ethnicity, enabling individuals manage their appearance where there is a visible skin difference whether congenital, dermatological

or as a result of trauma. This is often a major step forward, both physically and psychologically.

### Do clients need a referral?

Patients can self-refer via our website or they can request a private referral via their GP, surgeon or psychologist as part of their treatment choice.

### Tell us more about your work with UKTI to introduce Skin Camouflage?

Our work with UK Trade & Investment (OMIS) was to introduce skin camouflage to the burns units in hospitals in Perth Western Australia. This was a turning point when we were selected as a UKTI business case study. International referrals particularly from London embassies began and we became recognised for our clinical expertise with burns for men, women and children. This area of our work has become the driving force to expand our patient services with scar therapy management.

### What expert witness services do you provide and what makes you different?

We provide a full range of expert witness services including reports for personal injury, clinical negligence and cost reports for rehabilitation. Essentially 25 years of professional para medical skin camouflage experience sets us apart. We form our opinion from 'repeated clinical practice' of multiple site injuries, burns including chemical, fire, hot liquids and electricity, pigmentation and

traumatic scarring of all origins including dog attacks and self-harm. Our report writing has been professionally recognised since 2007 and is vetted every year.

Our expert witness reports are CPR compliant and provide quantum expertise. Expert witness training, CPD with Bond Solon and the Expert Witness Institute, GDPR compliance along with our long-standing expert witness memberships offer the best possible practice in providing professional medico-legal opinion in skin camouflage treatment.

### How is your Harley Street Clinic different from your other clinics?

Our Harley Street Clinic is different in that we see more International patients. We liaise with Embassies, arrange interpreters and chaperones where required. However, all our clinics have one important thing in common, to find the best skin camouflage solution possible.



**APIL 1<sup>st</sup> tier expert**

