



MY LIFE AS A PSYCHIC

Are clairvoyants the new wellness coaches? Whether you're sceptical, curious or a true believer, the esoteric industry is booming.

Joanna Webber talks with three professional psychics.

The world of psychics, soothsayers and fortune tellers has fascinated us since the beginning of time.

Today it's a booming industry.

Research group IBIS World shows that interest in psychic services has grown steadily over the past five years, reaching more than \$3 billion in revenue in the US in 2018. With dial-a-psychic apps such as Kasamba and Purple Ocean capturing a younger audience, that's expected to continue.

Rose Smith is a psychologist and counsellor. She is also a psychic medium and founder of Absolute Soul Secrets – the largest network of psychic readers in the southern hemisphere. Based on the Gold Coast, Rose manages almost 80 psychic readers working remotely across Australia and the world.

Despite costing nearly \$3 a minute for a phone reading, calls to Absolute Soul Secrets have been steadily growing since Rose launched the online business in 2000. In the past year, she says calls have increased by nearly 25 per cent.

Rose puts the rising trend down to convenience (her readers are available 24/7) and to an increasing acceptance of spirituality and self-care practices. "I think a lot of people feel let down by the more traditional avenues they've turned to in the past for spiritual support, such as church leaders. They're finding psychic readers are empathetic and can be very helpful in difficult times."

"I TALK TO DEAD PEOPLE"

Psychic medium **Deb Webber** starred in the award-winning TV series *Sensing Murder* and is a long-time columnist for weekly magazines in Australia. For as long as she can remember, Deb has been talking to dead people.

"When I was growing up, I would watch the world-famous English medium Doris Stokes on television. I always knew I could do what she was doing. I knew that when I grew up, I would be on television and on stage, and that one day I would be travelling the world healing and helping people.

Ever since I was a child, I've found it easier to communicate with spirits who have passed over than with people here on earth. I've always understood that all of life is just different expressions of the same energy and that in truth, there is no separation. We are all one.

Every person, animal and plant that has died has a consciousness that they communicate through me, for others. I can sometimes see winning gambling numbers, too, but I don't do that anymore because I feel it's using my abilities in the wrong way.

Sometimes I connect so deeply with spirits that I don't know where I begin and end. Recently I had a massive craving for an iced doughnut. I've not eaten doughnuts for years, but I couldn't stop myself from driving to my local servo and buying one.

Later that day I did a reading for two sisters who had lost their dad. Just as the session began, I saw him walk into my lounge room carrying a box of doughnuts. When I mentioned it to them, they started to laugh and told me their dad loved doughnuts best of all!

I have felt all the symptoms of swine flu and hypothermia. I've felt the sensation of having my leg chopped off. One day in the middle of summer, my legs turned completely white and felt frozen. A woman I did a reading for later that day told me her friend had been found dead in the snow.

Having this gift has taught me so much. I know what happens when we finish here on earth. I know that love is everything and that it's a mistake to judge and point the finger at others. We are much bigger than we sometimes want to perceive, and we never stop learning and expanding. I'm grateful for every breath I take but I also have no fear of going home."

"ANIMALS COMMUNICATE WITH ME"

Amanda De Warren is a medium and columnist whose new book, *My Journey Behind Blue Eyes*, reveals her work with Steve Irwin, and how she has always known what animals are thinking.

"When I was five, I was visiting my uncle's farm in England when one of his dogs went missing. I knew it was wedged between bales of hay in a shed three miles away. I could hear him barking. I could see in my mind where he was stuck. After a lot of insisting on my part, we went to the sheds and sure enough there was the dog.

When I was about six, I was at my mum's friend's house and I could see her cat sitting on a chair with a man. The cat said, "My daddy is here." I'd never seen the man before, but when I described him to my mother's friend, she said it could only be her husband who had passed away in that very chair holding his beloved cat.

There are many ways animals communicate with me but mostly it's in the form of telepathic visions. I get pictures, feelings, drawings. I sense their emotions and the sensations in their bodies. I interpret the visions and relay them to their owner.

It brings peace and closure for people when I connect them with their pets. Animals always show me how they passed. I see them leaving their bodies and being met by other animals and loved ones.

It's funny, but I find most animals really like to talk about themselves. They have no qualms about dobbing in their owners, either. Once three little dogs wanted me to ask their mum, "Who is that lady who comes to see Dad when you're not home?" Not long after that, the woman called to tell me she had busted her husband and his mistress in the house!

I've learnt that animals love us unconditionally even long after they have passed. One gentleman I saw had adored the German shepherd he had when he was a boy. That dog came through to talk to him 75 years later.

If you want to connect more deeply with your pets, sit on the floor with them, clear your mind and relax. You'll soon sense a flow of energy between you. Keep your mind open and they will do the rest. Once the lines of communication are open, you won't be able to shut them up!"

"I have felt all the symptoms of swine flu and hypothermia. I've felt the sensation of having my leg chopped off."



Deb Webber sometimes gets so caught up with spirits she can't tell "where I begin or end".



Amanda De Warren helps bring closure to people when she connects them with their pets.



Daniella Divine says her psychic gift has taught her empathy, kindness and compassion.

"I GET MESSAGES FROM SPIRITS"

Daniella Divine started receiving messages from guides after a car accident. Today, she runs psychic development courses. Her book, *Journey Into Wholeness*, shares ways to find more peace, freedom and joy.

"My gift opened up in my 20s when I began to explore the world of intuition and psychic phenomena. After a serious car accident when I was 22, I started receiving repetitive messages from my spirit guides telling me it was time to offer my gift to others. That was over a decade ago.

The beings I work with are the epitome of unconditional love, wisdom and acceptance. Spirit guides know that most of the time, people either don't want to listen to them or don't know how to, so they use me to deliver their messages. As far as they are concerned, life is a learning experience and there is no right or wrong.

When I do a reading for a client, I'm able to see, hear, feel and know things that help bring clarity, insight and direction to their lives.

One woman's spirit guides told me she was a healer with specific spiritual gifts, but that she was scared to take the plunge. I was able to tell her that it was safe for her to go down this path, that her gifts were much needed, and that everything would be fine. Sometimes we just need someone to confirm what we already know.

Some of the most powerful readings I have done have been for sceptics. I understand people being sceptical. Their life experience has taught them not to trust in anything they can't understand with their logical mind. It's wonderful when I see something switch on behind their eyes when they get that maybe there's more to life than they thought.

I feel enormously grateful for this gift, but sometimes sensing beyond the physical can be overwhelming. When I go into busy environments, I don't always want to be so aware of all the energies going on beneath the surface. Sometimes I'd just like to do my shopping and go home.

Having said that, this extra layer of perception has helped me a lot. It has given me a profound connection to others, taught me empathy, kindness and compassion. I think if more people experienced this, our world would be a very different place." •