

## **APS Riverina Branch Newsletter June 2015**

This Riverina Branch communication will be sent out to all members who provided their email address to the branch. In order to reduce the number of emails sent out, most communications for the group will be collated and sent out via this method. If you wish to unsubscribe from all Riv branch emails please contact the editor [mpfinnegan@bigpond.com](mailto:mpfinnegan@bigpond.com).

### **Chair's Message**

Dear Riverina branch members,

Despite the cold winter season in our region, your local branch has been very active in providing valuable training at affordable costs. Thanks to good financial management we had available funds for subsidising two full day training workshops for our membership. I would also like to thank the NSW Department of Education for co-sponsoring one of our recent workshop.

We invited Black Dog to provide two full day workshops, which were booked out fast and were well attended. I would like to thank my Branch Committee for organising these two events.

I would like to direct your attention to recent developments at planning and policy matters at both the federal and state level. You may be aware, that the federal government has recently released a review report on Mental Health Programs and Services, and the state government of NSW is trailing the new NDIS program.

### **Review of Mental Health Programmes and Services**

As you are aware, the Commonwealth Government asked the National Mental Health Commission to review the national mental health programmes and services. It is likely that recommendations by this review will formulate the future mental health policies as they impact on program funding and service provisions. If you are interested in this matter, I suggest that you consult the website which allows you to download the full report and also relevant fact sheet based on the key foci of this report.

<http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov.au/our-reports/review-of-mental-health-programmes-and-services.aspx>

### **Medicare**

You may think that with the current Federal Budget gone, Medicare for Psychologists is safe. Think again. The freeze on fees has been extended and the Federal Minister for Health has already commissioned a review of the entire Medicare System. Please see URL below.

Experts picked for the Medicare review. This review should be completed within the next 2 years. Please see URL for more details.

<http://www.psnews.com.au/aps/459/news/experts-picked-to-review-medicare>

### **National Disability Scheme**

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/>

The NDIS scheme is soon coming near you. Currently the Hunter region is the NSW trail site, but in the near future this transformation in the service provision to disabled clients will also impact on the Riverina. see

<http://www.ndis.gov.au/about-us/our-sites>

Ageing Disability and Homecare in Murrumbidgee district is seeking to develop a listing of psychologists able to provide services for ADHC (disability) and Community Services (children in out of home care) clients. Furthermore, in order to assist with capacity building prior to the roll out ADHC is canvassing the need for further training in this specialist area and would ask interested members to advise AHHC of their interests in obtaining such training. I will bulk email an EOI form for you to be able to advise of your interest.

### **APS Membership Renewal**

Given that we are living in such a fast changeable world, it is important to have as psychologists a strong professional body to advocate for us at the highest level. I believe that given the strong membership numbers of the APS, we as part of this professional body have considerable influence in policy formulation. Of course in politics one does not always succeed.

Apart from the advocacy, I suggest that you visit the APS website to see the wealth of free resources to members and the training services provided by Institute. For me, I like the CPD log system, the multiple resources and the regular up-dates on professional developments to name a few.

I don't think, I have to market the APS services to you, but would like to remind you that our membership renewals are due again. You can renew your membership easily online.

See you all at our next CPD seminar in July 2015

Karl  
APS Riverina Branch Chair

## **Treasurer's Report**

The Branch has been able to successfully finance a number of high quality professional development activities facilitated by the Black Dog Institute in the first half of the year and is in a financially strong position heading in to the second half of the year.

John Sheppard

## **Ageing Disability and Homecare**

Ageing Disability and Homecare in Murrumbidgee district is seeking to develop a listing of psychologists able to provide services for ADHC (disability) and Community Services (children in out of home care) clients. I have attached an EOI form which psychologists can complete to indicate their interest and areas of expertise.

In addition, the EOI form asks psychologists to nominate areas in which they would be keen to gain training – ADHC is seeking to support capacity building in the sector prior to the roll out of the NDIS. We also hope to arrange some forums later in 2015 in relation to the NDIS.

I have attached the EOI form and the introductory letter which goes with the form.

It would be appreciated if you would consider circulating the form and letter via the Riverina APS email listing. I would also like to discuss the option of the EOI being introduced briefly at a local APS meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Sam

Samantha Corneille  
Senior Specialist Psychologist  
Western, Murrumbidgee and Far West Districts  
Ageing Disability and Home Care  
Department of Family and Community Services  
T 6057 0434  
M 0428 420 394  
F 6047 0499  
Level 4 Gardens Medical Centre  
470 Wodonga Place ALBURY NSW 2640  
E [Samantha.corneille@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Samantha.corneille@facs.nsw.gov.au)  
W [www.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au)

[Note: These forms will be emailed to members separately]

## **ASCA (Adults Surviving Child Abuse) Training**

Murrumbidgee Partners in Recovery is excited to provide a subsidised training opportunity delivered by ASCA (Adults Surviving Child Abuse). The one-day workshop, "Working with Adult Survivors of Complex Trauma", will be offered on three days, in 2 different locations:

- 24 June – Wagga Wagga
- 25 June – Wagga Wagga
- 26 June – Young

The cost of the workshop is \$30.00 per person and includes catering and all necessary training materials.

The workshop is designed for mental health clinicians, psychologists, clinical psychologists, social workers, general counsellors and other people working with adults survivors of complex trauma.

"To minimise the risk of re-traumatisation, working with adult survivors of complex trauma requires specialist knowledge which is both trauma-informed and grounded in research of the neurobiology of attachment."

Professionals may claim CPD hours/credits/points for their participation in ASCA professional training workshops either as a pre-approved or self-directed learning activity. For more information regarding CPD, please refer to your professional association or the AHPRA website.

Please give consideration to this training if you have any workers that you feel would benefit. Registrations are now open and places will be very limited. Please register before 11 June by returning a completed registration form (see attached) to:

Email: [naomi.richards@mml.org.au](mailto:naomi.richards@mml.org.au) ;

Fax: (02) 6923 3145; or

Mail: Partners in Recovery

Murrumbidgee Medicare Local

PO Box 5663

Wagga Wagga 2650

You will be notified if your registration is accepted and an invoice will be issued. In the event that the workshop exceeds capacity you will be contacted by a representative of Partners in Recovery and your name will be added to a waiting list.

## Refugee Panel Seminar

Presenters Dr Geraldine Duncan; Jeanette Ninnis; Greg Lowe; Frank Jarfoi.  
Date Wednesday 22nd of July 2015  
Time 6PM to 8PM  
Venue Commercial Club, Gurwood Street, Wagga Wagga  
Cost  
    APS Members \$10-00  
    Non-APS Members \$20-00  
    APS Student Members \$10-00

Food Nibbles, coffee and tea will be provided

Please register and pay online on or after June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015.

URL: <https://www.psychology.org.au/Events/Default.aspx?ID=1206>

Please indicate any special dietary requirements with your registration.

### **About the seminar**

This seminar is an opportunity for APS members to become better informed with the current situation of refugees in the local community and to gain an understanding of the issues, problems, complexities and mental health challenges of refugees.

### **About the presenters**

Dr Geraldine Duncan FRACGP, is an advocate for refugees and convenor of the city's Refugee Health Assessment Clinic.

Jeanette Ninnis is a Mental Health Social Worker and trauma counsellor. She is the Regional Outreach Counsellor for STARTTS Southern NSW (Service for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors).

Greg Lowe is the Recovery Support and Service Innovation Manager at Centacare South West NSW.

Special Guest: Frank Jarfoi

