

Abstracts for parallel sessions

Thursday 18th April 2013

Session 1B: Apology and forgiveness in Tort matters: The role of psychologists

Presenter: Prof Alfred Allan (Edith Cowan University) and Prof Robyn Carroll (University of Western Australia)

Time: 11.00am-12.30pm

Room: Pleiades Room

In this session we will briefly examine the remedial functions of Tort Law and the psychology of apology and forgiveness and then consider whether an apology may serve as a remedy. We will then examine the current legal situation in this regard in Australia and the potential roles that psychologists could play in respect of apologies in Tort matters.

Session 1C: Holding the line: Important matters to consider in the provision of independent psychological advice to a children's court.

Presenter: Dr Patricia Brown (Children's Court Clinic, Melbourne)

Time: 11.00am-12.30pm

Room: Orion Room

In this session Dr Brown will outline: (1) the specific elements that are important to address in assessments for a children's court, and the pitfalls to be avoided; (2) the philosophy and mechanics of independent advice; and (3) the possible repercussions of "holding the line" of independence in the face of the politics of an adversarial protection system. The focus of the session is on what psychologists need to do when working in this area and tips for how to maintain a high standard of practice and integrity in this area of forensic work.

Session 1D: Who killed doli? Do psychologists have a role in the determination of criminal responsibility of children?

Presenter: Ms Mary-Anne Martin (Private Practice), Magistrate Andrée Horrigan (Perth Children's Court), Dr Angela Cooney (Corrective Services, WA), Ms Kate Riordan (Corrective Services, WA), Mr Sean Stocks (Senior State Prosecutor, Children's Court Team Practice Manager) and Ms Claire Rossi (Lawyer, Youth Law Team, Legal Aid W.A.)

Time: 11.00am-12.30pm

Room: Admiralty Gulf

In law there is a presumption that a child under the age of 10 years cannot commit an offence. Between the ages of 10 and 14 years, a rebuttable presumption, known as *doli incapax* in common law, operates to deem a child between 10 and 14 years of age incapable of committing a criminal act. It falls to the prosecution to rebut the presumption by calling evidence to show that the child knew what he or she did was seriously wrong. This presentation will involve a panel discussion exploring the changing face and current status of *doli incapax* in the WA Children's Court, and in other jurisdictions. Topics covered will include the role of psychologists in the determination of *doli incapax*, the current use of the presumption of *doli incapax*, and the challenges and difficulties for the Court and others involved when dealing with children in the criminal justices system.

Session 1E: Treating sexual offenders who are in denial.

Presenter: Jayson Ware (Corrective Services, NSW)

Time: 11.00am-12.30pm

Room: King Sound

It should come as no surprise that an individual accused of committing a sexual crime or crimes will deny responsibility to some extent. A small number of these individuals will remain in categorical denial, maintaining that they are innocent, despite all efforts to overcome their denial. These offenders invariably pose difficulties for those tasked with assessing the offender's risk of committing further sexual offences and for treatment providers. Historically, sexual offenders who maintained their denial were seen to be more likely to re-offend, unmotivated, or at the very least their continued denial posed an ongoing and serious impediment to effective treatment. This workshop will challenge many of these historical assumptions. First, I will explore whether or not there are important differences between categorical deniers and other sexual offenders. Second, I will critically examine what we know about why these men maintain their innocence and why there is no relationship between categorical denial and recidivism. Finally, I will explore treatment options and the evidence that supports providing treatment to individuals who continue to maintain their innocence.

Session 2A: Practice guidelines for single expert witness investigations in the Family Courts.

Presenter: APS Forensic College Working Party members.

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Sirius Room

Members of the working party charged with the task of developing practice guidelines for SEW work in the Family Courts will present the products from their deliberations and research. Subgroups of the working party and individual working party members have worked on particular parts of the guidelines, and some of those outcomes are being presented in other sessions within the conference (e.g., Jim Ogloff on family violence risk-assessments, Chris Lennings on assessing risk of child maltreatment, Martine Powell on interviewing). In this session, panel members will summarise the working party's current position on matters such as defining best interests of the child from a psychological perspective, theory and assessment frameworks to guide the evaluation of parental capacity, empirically-grounded methods for evaluating children's relationships with other family members. An important part of this session will be seeking feedback from practitioners on the direction that the working party has taken with some of these practice areas.

Session 2B: DSM-5 and paraphilias.

Presenter: Dr Michael Davis (Private Practice, Melbourne)

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Pleiades Room

The assessment of paraphilia, or sexual deviance, is an important and often controversial topic in forensic psychology. While some argue that sexual behaviour should not be pathologised in such a fashion, meta-analytic results have consistently indicated that sexual deviance is the most potent risk factor for recidivism amongst sexual offenders. This workshop will provide an overview of the paraphilias, with an emphasis on the most forensically relevant conditions. The evolution of diagnostic criteria in the various editions of the DSM will be discussed, along with a critical examination of the proposed criteria for the upcoming DSM-5. The importance of collateral material regarding offence behaviours will also be examined and several behavioural rating scales will be described. Practical challenges in the assessment of sexual deviance will be noted throughout.

Session 2C: Clinical supervision in correctional settings.

Presenter: Dr Gavan Palk (Barrister and Forensic Psychologist, Brisbane)

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Orion Room

Supervising forensic psychology interns/trainees or inexperienced psychologists in correctional settings brings challenges to the supervisory process often not observed in other types of psychology settings. For Instance, many correctional clients have multiple problems related to poor behaviour, personality disorders and mental health concerns. Hence, forensic psychologists in their workplace on a daily basis constantly face ethical and legal dilemmas and increased risk of complaints. Effective supervision of forensic psychologists is therefore critical to ensuring that relatively new forensic psychologists have the support, guidance, knowledge base and competencies to cope with both the responsibilities and ethical-legal challenges in a forensic setting. In this workshop I will discuss best practice forensic psychology supervision in the context of the National Psychology Board's supervision requirements for provisional psychologists. The key objectives and functions of supervision will also be

discussed in light of the various models of supervision and evidence based supervisory practice. Other issues will also be discussed in the workshop related to identifying the main competencies required for effective supervision and managing the evaluative component of supervision, particularly with regard to deciding on fitness to practice.

Session 2D: Autism-spectrum disorders: Violent offenders, risk-assessment and DSM-5.

Presenter: Assoc Prof Guy Hall (School of Law, Murdoch University) and R/Assist Prof Glasson

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Admiralty Gulf

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by impairments in social interaction, communication, and behaviour. It is a life-long disability which impacts many domains of daily living, including conversation, imagination, understanding the intentions of others, perceiving unwritten rules, making and sustaining friendships, changing routines and trying new behaviours. ASD is a collective term for autism-specific diagnoses. ASD diagnoses have increased significantly over the past decade. The evidence for a relationship between ASD and offending is mixed. There are different reasons for this which will be covered in the presentation. Notwithstanding, there are indications that people with ASD are over-represented in the criminal justice system.

The Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RNR) model remains the major model for criminal justice interventions. This presentation will cover ASD and its diagnosis, the characteristics of ASD and the fit between RNR and ASD with a focus on violent offending.

Session 2E: Foetal-alcohol syndrome and juvenile offenders.

Presenter: Dr Raewyn Mutch (Consultant Paediatrician, Refugee Health Service, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, Perth and State Child Development Service, WA Department of Health Telethon Institute for Child Health Research), Dr Carmela Pestell (Clinical Neuropsychologist and Clinical Psychologist Private Practice Western Australia), Heather Jones (Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Manager FASD Projects)

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: King Sound

Foetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are a group of conditions that can occur in an individual who has been exposed to maternal alcohol use during pregnancy. Such exposure subsequently results in a range of physical effects, difficulties with learning and behaviour and for some individuals, involvement in the justice system. There are a range of concerns and implications associated with having a young person with FASD involved in the criminal justice system some of which include, forensic assessments, credibility of the witness, establishing fitness to plead and in some areas of police questioning.

This session will incorporate national and international perspectives on FASD assessment and interventions and incorporate such into discussions specific to FASD as it relates to offending behaviour. Implications for sentencing will be discussed in the context of the current research and services which are available for FASD and the knowledge, attitudes and current practice of judicial services.

Session 3A: Practice guidelines for the forensic evaluation of psychological injuries.
Presenter: APS Forensic College Working Party members.
Time: 3.30-5.00pm
Room: Sirius Room

Members of the working party charged with the task of developing practice guidelines for evaluating psychological injuries will present the products from their deliberations and research. Subgroups of the working party and individual working party members are starting to work on particular parts of the guidelines, and some of this work is reflected in other sessions within the conference (e.g., Jane Goodman-Delahunty on balancing the need for probative data against a desire to not harm the claimant, Greg Dear on interviewing strategies). In this session, panel members will summarise their work so far, and the strategies they have decided upon for achieving their task of producing empirically-grounded guidelines for conducting evaluations with a high probative value that will effectively assist courts and other tribunals. An important part of this session will be seeking feedback from practitioners on the direction that the working party has taken so far.

Session 3B: Interventions with Intractable High Conflict Separated Parents: Working with the Family Law system to obtain the best outcomes for children.
Presenter: Dr Jennifer Neoh (Private Practice, Victoria) and Dr Simon Kennedy (Private Practice, Victoria)
Time: 3.30-5.00pm
Room: Pleiades Room

Interventions with parents who are family law litigants can involve dealing with some of the most difficult family dynamics and bitter parental conflict. This session will examine some of methods and thinking around assisting parents to focus on their children and learn new ways of dealing with the other parent. This presentation will also address the potential pitfalls of intervening with these families, with a focus on clinical principles in avoiding the typical problems with family court matters, where the clinician is co-opted into the dynamics of the legal/family matter. The session will be practically based and provide warnings, strategies and techniques used to build rapport with the most resistant participants, provide psycho-education about parenting, the known risks to children, overcoming obstacles and how to keep parents focused on the best outcomes for their children within a forensic framework. This is an active learning session involving discussion, skills demonstration and case presentations.

Session 3C: Practice standards in risk-assessment.
Presenter: Assoc Prof Michael Daffern (Monash University)
Time: 3.30-5.00pm
Room: Orion Room

What is the consensus in the literature as to the essential components of a competent risk-assessment? What are the gold-standards? What are feasible aspirational standards? What are the minimum-acceptable standards? How appropriate is it to adopt in Australia standards that have been developed in other countries? What are some of the reasons that Australian practitioners give for not operating according to the professional standards that some jurisdictions require or that some scholars and practice guidelines recommend? How much creativity and individuality in approach should be tolerated in risk-assessment methodologies? The presenters will answer some of these questions, while others will be

thrown to the participants to debate. This should prove to be a lively and robust session.

Session 3D: Critiquing colleagues' forensic psychology reports: methods, findings, and ethics.

Presenter: Prof Stephen Smallbone (Griffith University), Prof Alfred Allan (Edith Cowan University), Dr Gavan Palk (Barrister and Psychologist, Brisbane; Queensland University of Technology), Dr Sue Rayment-McHugh (Psychologist, Queensland)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Room: Admiralty Gulf

An important aspect of psychological practice in forensic settings is to critique other colleagues' work products (reports, testimony, etc.). This line of work raises a number of complex ethical and practical problems, including a realisation that many forensic psychology assessments are poorly conducted and/or reported. Problems are compounded by an absence of clear standards in the conduct and reporting of forensic psychology assessments. Undertaking this work ethically and without prejudice provides a crucial service not only to lawyers, the judiciary, and tribunals, but also to the psychology profession. This session will cover the lessons learned from engaging in such work, and suggestions for how to conduct oneself professionally in this area of practice.

Session 3E: Psychological interventions with indigenous offenders.

Presenter: TBA

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Room: King Sound

Feature Session Debate: Chaired by Professor Don Thomson and Panel: It is not always appropriate to obtain fully informed consent from litigants in many forms of forensic evaluation.

Time: 5:30-6:45pm

Room: Sirius / Pleiades Room

Prof Thomson has put together two teams of experienced forensic psychologists to debate this topic. One team will argue in favour of the motion that it is not always appropriate to obtain fully informed consent from forensic examinees, while the other team will argue that it is always appropriate. Section A.3 of the APS Code of Conduct stipulates that psychologists must fully inform the person who is to be assessed of the nature and purpose of the proposed assessment, but are there circumstances in forensic practice in which fully informing the litigant would jeopardise the probative value of any assessment data subsequently collected?

Friday 19th April 2013

Feature Session Panel: Why clinical assessment methods are not appropriate for forensic evaluations.

Chair: The Honourable Wayne Martin, AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia

Panel: Prof Martine Powell (Deakin University) – Forensic interviewing of children as applied to criminal proceedings and Family Court litigation.

Assoc Prof Jane Goodman-Delahunty (Charles Sturt University) -

Psychological testing and evaluating claimed psychological injury claims.

Dr Greg Dear (Edith Cowan University) - Appropriate interviewing methods when evaluating psychological injury claims.

Dr Michael Davis (Private Practice, Victoria) - Appropriate interviewing methods when conducting risk-assessments.

Time: 9.00-10.30am

Room: Sirius / Pleiades Room

This session comprises four brief presentations that (1) outline the psychological assessment methods that are pertinent to each of four areas of forensic practice and (2) explain how those methods differ from the methods typically employed by clinical psychologists in those areas. Clinical psychology is concerned with the diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders and mental health problems, and the assessment strategies that clinical psychologists are trained in are based around the collaborative helping relationship that a therapist must build with his or her client (reflective listening, empathic responding, symptom checklists such as the BDI, etc.). Such assessment devices are appropriate, and indeed useful, in clinical practice because they enable patients to articulate symptoms that they might not be fully aware of or that they might feel embarrassed to disclose. However, such assessment devices are not appropriate for forensic evaluations in which the examinee is likely to be motivated to mislead the evaluation (e.g., a plaintiff who seeks to exaggerate his or her symptoms, a Family Court litigant who wishes to present as a competent parent, a criminal defendant who wishes to be found unfit to stand trial). The evaluation of psychological problems and risk-factors in forensic evaluations requires distinctly different assessment methods and devices than those that are useful in clinical assessments. The presenters will summarise some of the critical differences between clinical assessment methods and forensic evaluation methods, and why using clinical methods will damage the probative value of the psychologist's data, thereby diminishing his or her capacity to assist the court or other tribunal in which the psychologist is giving evidence. The Honourable Wayne Martin, AC, will then deliver a commentary on the four presentations, and will take questions from the audience that can be directed at any of the panel members, including His Honour.

Session 4A: Running a successful private practice for fun and profit.
Presenter: Dr Phil Watts (Forensic Psychologist, Perth), Dr Luke Broomhall (Forensic Psychologist, Adelaide), Mr Tony Pastore (Forensic Psychologist, Victoria)
Time: 11.00am-12.30pm
Room: Sirius Room

Three forensic psychologists from here different states share tips on running a successful forensic practice. Tony Pastore from Victoria will share his thoughts about running an ethical and respected forensic practice. Luke Broomhall from South Australia will focus on developing and running a multi-practitioner practice. Phil Watts from Western Australia will share ideas about developing niche areas and a diversified forensic market. This workshop is designed for those who may be considering going into private practice, as well as helping the experienced practitioner revitalise his or her professional interests.

Session 4B: Treatment integrity and therapeutic alliance with correctional clients.
Presenter: Christine Kozar (Corrections Victoria)
Time: 11.00am-12.30pm
Room: Pleiades Room

When delivering structured evidence-based programmes to address offending behaviour, treatment integrity is critical to the effectiveness of that programme. Developing appropriate therapeutic alliances with individual clients and with group members in group-based interventions is also critical to the effectiveness of the intervention. Many guidelines for programme integrity fail to consider the impact of particular integrity strategies on therapeutic alliance, and many guidelines for developing therapeutic alliance fail to consider the impacts on programme integrity. Yet, it is possible to have both. In this workshop, Dr Kozar will outline and demonstrate effective strategies for developing sound therapeutic alliances with clients (including in group-based programmes) while maintaining a high level of programme integrity. She will draw on recent Australian research in which therapists and clients were asked about their experiences of offending behaviour programs, the relevance of the therapeutic alliance, and the types of ruptures that were experienced. Three different modes were identified within practise: educative, engagement and therapeutic. Therapists described entering these different modes largely based on their experience and qualifications, although therapists who described using more therapeutic approaches in response to potential ruptures within the alliance also used other modes judiciously based on the stage of a group as well as the characteristics of clients. Therapists described difficulties in establishing alliances with clients who demonstrated an array of personality disorder traits, particularly narcissistic, psychopathic, borderline and schizoid. Workshop participants will be provided with an opportunity to reflect on which modes they primarily (would) use within the context of program delivery and have an opportunity to explore the development of clinical practice to create therapeutic opportunities when presented with potential ruptures. A preliminary model for resolving therapeutic ruptures within offending behaviour programs will be presented to assist practitioners to respond to clients who present with significant personality issues.

Session 4C: Mandatory detention is effective for what?
Presenter: Prof Patrick Keyzer (Research Centre for Law, Governance and Public Policy, Bond University).
Time: 11.00am-12.30pm
Room: Orion Room

Despite the serious shortcomings of preventive detention regimes, they have proliferated in Australia (and offshore within Australia's sphere of influence). Do they work? In this presentation Prof Keyzer will consider the evidence, and critically examine whether or not the claims made for the implementation of these regimes can be substantiated. He will also outline the implications for psychologists who work in these systems.

Session 4D: Interviewing methods for collecting Risk-Assessment data.
Presenter: Dr Michael Davis (Private Practice, Victoria) and Dr Greg Dear (Edith Cowan University and Private Practice WA).
Time: 11.00am-12.30pm
Room: Admiralty Gulf

Training workshops and courses on risk-assessment and other forensic tools (e.g., PCL-R, RSVP, HCR-20, VRS) typically focus on the psychometric properties of the tool, correct procedures for scoring items and scales, and interpretation of scores. All of these are critical aspects of using such instruments. However, knowing how to score an item using interview and file data that have already been collected is only part of the required skill set. One must first of all know how to conduct a competent forensic interview in order to gather the information needed to score each item. Normal clinical interviewing is inappropriate for such forensic assessment tasks. In this workshop we outline appropriate forensic interviewing methods that improve the probative value of the information that you collect and thereby improve the probative value and validity of the item scores, leading to more valid and reliable opinions presented to the court or other tribunal who you are seeking to assist.

Session 4E: Expert evidence requiring both neuropsychological and forensic expertise.
Presenter: Dr Susan Pulman (Forensic Psychologist and Clinical Neuropsychologist), Dr Peter Ashkar (Forensic Psychologist, now also trained in clinical Neuropsychology), and a Personal Injury Lawyer (TBC).
Time: 11.00am-12.30pm
Room: King Sound

The aim of that session is to highlight the issues that arise when a forensic case requires expertise in neuropsychology (or any other speciality) that the forensic psychologist doesn't have, but also requires forensic competencies that non-forensic psychologists don't have. There are very few psychologists who have multiple areas of endorsement, other than the rather common combination of forensic and clinical. The solution in these cases is for the forensic psychologist and the other specialist (e.g., neuropsychologist) to work together. There are various models for working together as joint experts, but lawyers are often reluctant to engage joint-experts in psychology despite the fact that they routinely do so with other areas of expert evidence (e.g., forensic accountants). In this session several cases will be presented to illustrate the need for forensic psychologists to engage experts from other areas of psychology, and how to explain to lawyers (in ways that they will understand) why this is necessary.

Session 5A: Ethics guidelines for forensic practice.

Presenter: Prof Don Thomson

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Sirius Room

The APS has recently developed Ethical Guidelines for Psychological Practice in Forensic Settings. Prof Thomson chaired the working party comprising invited members of the forensic college. In this presentation, Prof Thomson will discuss key aspects of the Guidelines in terms of the complexities of forensic practice. Delegates attending this session are encouraged to bring ethical questions and conundrums from their current or recent cases for discussion and analysis within the framework of the Guidelines.

Session 5B: Facilitating the reporting of child sexual abuse in remote Aboriginal communities.

Presenter: Mr Glenn Mace (Dept of Child Protection, WA) and Ms Victoria Hovane (Edith Cowan University)

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Pleiades Room

Mr Mace will outline the Operation RESET programmes that were implemented in a number of Aboriginal communities in the North West of WA. This project involved cooperation and coordination of various government and non-government services with proper community consultation and engagement. He will also present some of the evaluation data that illustrates the effectiveness of those methods generally, and the RESET Project specifically. Ms Hovane will summarise her research into the experiences and perceptions of Aboriginal people in regional and remote communities in relation to the difficulties that people face in reporting abuse and the strategies that her participants identified for facilitating disclosure. Those presentations will be followed by an open discussion on the implications and take-home messages for psychologists who work with Aboriginal people, particularly those in remote communities, in child-protection, corrections, victim services, and who undertake psychological evaluations for the courts.

Session 5C: Risk-assessment in child-protection litigation.

Presenter: Dr Gary Banks, Dr Mark Allerton, Dr Simon Kennedy, Dr Chris Lennings

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Room: Orion Room

In this session we will outline various approaches to guide risk-assessment of child maltreatment within the broader context of evaluating parental capacity. We will provide an overview of risk-assessment tools that have been trialled and validated for use with Australian families in child-protection investigations, discuss effective parenting competency assessments, and we will present case material to illustrate the importance of embedding risk-assessment methodologies within a competent forensic evaluation. The session will outline some do's and don'ts for effective presentation of risk assessment formulations and recommendations.

Session 5D: Balancing the need for probative data against not harming the litigant.
Presenter: Jane Goodman-Delahunty; Genevieve Grant (former tort litigator, and now researcher); Mark Nolan (social psychologist and criminal law lecturer); Peter Ashkar (forensic psychologist with civil and criminal assessment experience); Prasuna Reddy (health, org, forensic psych); Greg Dear (forensic psychologist).
Time: 1.30-3.00pm
Room: Admiralty Gulf

Trying to meet the tribunal's need for probative data while minimising the harm done to the litigant or victim is one of the most difficult aspects of designing and implementing a forensic examination of psychological injuries claimants and crime victims. In this interactive session, distinguished experts review best practices that forensic evaluators can use in assessing credibility and causation of harm in civil and criminal cases to aid courts in determining criminal culpability, in awarding appropriate compensation in civil and criminal cases, and in determining appropriate penalties in sentencing. This session provides some practical guidance for practitioners in finding the balance among the competing ethical and evidentiary demands of this area of work.

Session 5E: Collaborative family law: what roles can psychologists play?
Presenter: Dr Darryl Menaglio (Forensic Psychologist, Private Practice) and Ms Penny Keeley (Solicitor, Clairs Keeley Lawyers)
Time: 1.30-3.00pm
Room: King Sound

Collaborative practice in Family Law is an emerging initiative that offers exciting opportunities for Forensic Psychologists to apply their skills and knowledge in Family Law to help achieve agreed negotiated outcomes for parties. Participants in this seminar will (1) learn what collaborative practice is and how it differs from other forms of negotiated outcome processes, such as mediation, (2) learn how forensic psychologists can contribute to collaborative practice, and (3) obtain an understanding of the skill-sets involved.

Workshop 1: Forensic Interviewing: Essential skills for all forensic psychologists.

Presenter: Prof Martine Powell (Deakin University)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Room: Sirius Room

In this workshop Prof Powell will provide an overview of the interviewing skills required for obtaining an un-led narrative account of an event or series of events that the interview is claimed to have experienced. Essential questioning techniques that provide the basis for all forensic interviewing will be demonstrated and participants will be guided through the use of those questions through a series of role play exercises.

Workshop 2: New developments and current controversies in providing psychological services to juvenile offenders.

Presenter: Dr Bruce Watt (Bond University)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Room: Pleiades Room

In this workshop Dr Watt will present some of the controversies facing psychologists who work in juvenile correction systems around Australia. Among all of the political and policy debates there is a growing evidence base of what is effective in treating the psychological factors that contribute to criminal offending, and how those interventions are best delivered. All psychologists who work in this area need to be competent in a number of core skills and have a solid working knowledge of key empirical findings and theories in the scientific literature. It is not possible to cover all of these requisite competencies in one workshop, so Dr Watt will focus on a couple of controversial and emerging areas that are less well established among Australian psychologists.

Workshop 3: Risk Assessment with Aboriginal Offenders

Presenter: Dr Michael Davis, Professor Stephen Smallbone, Prof Douglas Boer (University of Canberra), Ms Deborah Dawson (Dept of Corrective Services, WA)

Time: 3.30-5.00pm

Room: Orion Room

Erin Sweeny will chair this workshop. The workshop is in four parts. First, Stephen Smallbone will present an overview of the challenges inherent in developing risk-assessment tools that are valid for Aboriginal offenders, but also the importance of addressing this need. Next, Ms Dawson will present an overview of the process through which the 3-predictor model was developed and an overview of the model and tool (an SPJ risk-assessment tool developed in WA for assessing Aboriginal sexual offenders). In particular she will explain how the 3-P Model fits within Fourth Generation Risk Assessment Approaches where a whole of system approach is taken regarding risk and risk management. Next, Prof Boer will provide an overview of the work that he has been leading in developing and validating a risk-assessment tool for evaluating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sexual offenders. Both Ms Dawson and Prof Boer will focus their presentations on the usefulness of their respective tools for forensic psychologists who evaluate Indigenous offenders around Australia. Finally, Professor Smallbone will comment on the two risk-assessment tools and how well they address the needs of forensic practitioners and Dr Davis will provide his analysis of the work that Ms Dawson and Prof Boer have been doing and how close we are to, or how far we are from, having risk-assessment devices that can be used in courts and tribunals (e.g., Parole Boards) around Australia.

Saturday 20th April 2013

Feature Session Panel: When litigants make a complaint to the Psychology Board of Australia about an expert witness during the course of litigation.

Chair: Dr Ian Freckelton, SC, a Victorian Barrister who is well known to every lawyer and to every forensic psychologist around Australia for many things, but primarily for his scholarly work on Expert Evidence.

Panel: Dr Ian Freckelton, Mr Rod Hooper, Dr Phil Watts, Mr Michael Nicholls, Dr Leonie Coxon, Chief Judge Thackray

Time: 9.00-10.30am

Room: Sirius / Pleiades Room

Dr Ian Freckelton, SC, will begin the session with a very brief introduction and overview and will introduce each of the panel members in turn as he invites him or her to briefly present his or her designated topic.

Next, Mr Rod Hooper, SC, a barrister in family law, will provide a lawyer's perspective on why Registration Board complaints should be delayed until after the trial. Dr Phil Watts (forensic psychologist) will then provide a psychologist's perspective on why complaints should be delayed until after the trial. They will be followed by Mr Michael Nicholls, QC, also a barrister in family law, who will provide a lawyer's perspective on the advantages of the Board being able to address the complaint quickly and the risks of waiting until after the trial. Next, Dr Leonie Coxon will provide a psychologist's perspective on the advantages of addressing the complaint quickly and the risks of waiting until after the trial.

We are very excited to have Chief Judge Thackray from the Family Court of WA who will then present a brief reaction to the issues raised by the various speakers and explain the Court's difficulty with these cases.

Dr Ian Freckelton, SC, will then (1) outline the legal issues from a professional registration perspective, including the role of the Board and the obligation to protect the community from incompetent or negligent behaviour by psychologists; (2) summarise some interesting recent case law with regard to the implications for Australian psychologists who practice in the forensic area; and (3) comment on some of the issues raised by the other panel members.

Dr Freckelton, SC, will then put questions to the panel members allowing them to respond to some of the issues raised in both his and His Honour's commentaries.

There will also be time for questions from the audience.