



The Profiler

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGISTS

VOLUME 3



The Australian Psychological Society Ltd.

MARCH 2008

Conference Hailed A Success!

College members will be aware that the 'Advancing Forensic Psychology' conference was held from the 25-28th February in Melbourne. This was an important event for the College, which has not hosted a conference since 2001, and our thanks are due to those college members who gave up their time to help organise the conference: James Ogloff, Michael Crewdson, David Curnow, Michael Daffern, Michael Davis, Felicity Dunne, Murray Ferguson, Belinda Guadagno, Bianca Klettke, Anthea Lemphers, and Martine Powell.

This edition of the Profiler is dedicated to a report from the College Chair, Professor Alfred Allan on business arising from the conference. This is an important time for the College, and as will be evident from Alfred's report there is much to be done. We encourage members to get involved in College activities in any way that they can.

Please send contributions to the Profiler to: Andrew.day@deakin.edu.au

Andrew Day
SA Section

From the Chair

It is a pleasure for me to congratulate Jim Ogloff and the other members of the organising committee of the 2nd Forensic Psychology Conference on a very stimulating and well-organised event. I thought it was a very friendly and interesting conference, with many opportunities to network with other like-minded psychologists and non-

psychologists. The presentations by the key note speakers, Justice Glazebrook, Professors Maryanne Garry and Randy Otto, were excellent, as were all of the other presentations I attended. I think that it is accurate to say that there was overwhelming support for the idea that these conferences should take place more frequently. The National Committee has therefore invited the Queensland section of the Forensic College to organise the next conference at a date that will be announced later.

For members of the Committee the conference was also an opportunity to attend to College business. Some members of the committee met on the Tuesday before the conference and again during the conference to discuss a number of issues, including the domains of knowledge and skills (competencies) required of forensic psychologists and the current admission guidelines. There was also an evening committee meeting, a lunch meeting with Professor Lyn Littlefield, the Executive Director of the Australian Psychological Society (APS), and the general meeting of the College on the Friday evening. The Committee generated a list of matters that it, and future committees, should attend to. As the Committee needs the assistance of all members in these endeavours I will briefly discuss some of them here:

Increase number of members

The College needs more members to give it political power and the resources to provide services to its members, in relation for instance to professional development and supervision opportunities. Most of the work in this regard will have to be done in the different states and territories. The Committee therefore encourages members to form sections where there are none and to ac-

tively recruit members. The members of the national committee are keen to help where they can in arranging presentations or giving presentations. Enquiries about membership issues can be directed to Mary-Anne Martin on Mary-Anne.Martin@correctiveservices.wa.gov.au.

Funding opportunities for forensic psychologists

It is possible that there may be “political funds” available for work that are eminently suitable for members of the College, for instance in the area of child protection. The Committee intends to identify such areas and then work with the National Office of the APS to find ways to make these funds available to appropriately qualified forensic psychologists. Please let Greg Dear know if you have any ideas in this regard. He can be contacted on g.dear@ecu.edu.au.

Work that forensic psychologists are excluded from

There are unfortunately some forms of work, for instance in the workers injury compensation area, that forensic psychologists are currently excluded from doing, despite having the competencies to do it to a high standard. This is likely to be discriminatory behaviour and the Committee intends to work with the National Office of the APS to make such work accessible to appropriately qualified forensic psychologists. Please contact Jack White if you know of such areas. He can be contacted on jackwhite@adam.com.au.

Informing stakeholders and key decision makers

One of the reasons why forensic psychologists may be excluded from some work is because stakeholders are ignorant of the knowledge, skills and experience of forensic psychologists. The Committee will develop a strategy to lobby key stakeholders to promote awareness of the specialist forensic psychological services that College members can provide. However, the Committee believes that lobbying should also take place at a local level and encourages local sections to do this. The Committee is currently developing a brochure for use in lobbying stakeholders and key decision makers. Leonie Coxon will be able to assist in this respect and can be contacted on leocoxon@iinet.net.au.

Professional development and supervision opportunities

Colleges are essentially about the setting and maintaining of high standards. However, if a College sets high standards it must also assist associate members achieve those standards in order to gain full membership and help full members to maintain their status. The provision of professional development opportunities to members should be a core function of any College. For a number of reasons the College has not been very effective in providing professional development activities that are accessible to all members. Having a conference more frequently will go some way to alleviate this problem, but the Committee intends to investigate alternative methods of delivering professional development in order to make it accessible to all members. Ronnie Zuessman is the person to contact on psychology2@bigpond.com.

Student members

Francesca Bell, the student representative on the Committee, will soon be contacting student members to explore ways in which the College can be of more assistance to them. Francesca can be contacted on F.Bell@ecu.edu.au.

Ethical guidelines

The Committee intends to develop ethical guidelines for forensic psychologists to both clarify and amplify the application of the general principles and standards contained in the APS Code of Ethics. These guidelines will be developed in collaboration with the APS Guidelines Committee and will be a long process that will involve consulting members. I will be taking the lead in this process and can be contacted on a.allan@ecu.edu.au.

Media image of forensic psychologists

The media image of what forensic psychologists do is often not only one dimensional but also inaccurate. The Committee intends working with the National Office in developing and implementing a strategy to educate people working in the media about the knowledge and skills of forensic psychologists and what they do.

Communication

Communicating with members is difficult for the Committee of a small College in a huge country. Andrew Day is doing excellent work as editor of the *Profiler*. Please help

Andrew in making the *Profiler* even better by sending him contributions in the form of letters, reports on the activities of your sections, short summaries of your or your students' research or other contributions you believe may be of interest to other members. Andrew's email address is andrew.day@deakin.edu.au. The College would also like to make more effective use of the space available to it on the APS website and need the services of a Web editor. Please let me know if you are interested in taking up this position.

As you can see the challenges facing the College are substantial. The Committee members therefore ask you to be patient and to assist where you can, particularly at local level.

Finally, a number of associate members asked me at the conference about the supervision requirement for people who have a postgraduate degree. I looked into this matter and the requirement is an APS requirement that is applicable to all Colleges and can only be changed if all the Colleges and the APS Board agree. The Colleges have different views of this requirement, and some Colleges very reluctantly agreed to the reduction in the supervision period that was accepted a number of years ago. It is therefore unlikely that the period will be reduced more in the future, especially as it is already shorter than the supervision period required by the Western Australian Psychologist Registration Board for forensic specialist title which is likely to be the standard required by the future national Psychologist Registration Board.

Best wishes

Alfred

Conference Highlights

Below are some photographs taken at the Melbourne conference.



Dr Randy Otto and Alfred Allan



It was a great opportunity for members to meet Bob Montgomery.

The conference dinner was held at the old Melbourne Gaol – a spectacular venue...



Notices

APS COLLEGE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGISTS SA SECTION
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 2009

Venue: Fullarton Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Adelaide, Friday 3rd April 1.30-3.30pm

Treating high risk violent offenders: Lessons learned—sometimes painfully—from research and practice

Presenter: Associate Professor Devon Polaschek, School of Psychology, Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand.

About the seminar:

New Zealand's Rimutaka prison has hosted an intensive cognitive-behavioural rehabilitation unit for high-risk violent male prisoners since 1998, allowing the accumulation of a significant body of knowledge from both research and practice, about what works, and some approaches that don't work. Dr Polaschek's presentation will examine violent offenders' key risk- and responsivity-related characteristics, alternative models of programme design, the evidence for whether violent offender programmes are effective in reducing recidivism, the relationship between psychopathy and violent offenders, issues in assessment and monitoring change, and the practical challenges inherent in running these programmes.

To register Please use the online registration form on the APS Events Calendar:
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=4509>

The W.A Branch of the APS Forensic College Presents

THINGS THAT YOU MUST KNOW IF YOU ARE GOING TO WRITE COURT REPORTS

Presented by Professor Alfred Allan and Dr Greg Dear

This workshop is aimed at improving practitioners' forensic report writing skills. It will be informed by opinions obtained directly from representatives of the judiciary about what they require and what problems they currently identify in reports from psychologists. Going further than a structural outline and information about what goes where, the workshop aims to provide attendees with an understanding of the purpose of forensic reports, the basic tenets of forensic report writing, the legal conventions that guide forensic report preparation, and the ethical considerations and requirements that are mandatory when undertaking forensic reports. It is expected that participants will be able to write reports that are better planned, more focused, and that more ably meet the requirements of the judicial body they are written for.

Wednesday 15th April 2009

From 8.30am until 5:00pm

at

PMH Function Room

Roberts Road, Subiaco

Lunch, morning and afternoon teas included

COST: \$100.00 APS Forensic College Members and Students

\$250.00 APS Members

\$350.00 Non-APS Members

Registration is online at <http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=4442>

The first 10 people to either join the Forensic College (WA Branch only) or submit an application prior to the RSVP date that is subsequently accepted will receive a **\$100 credit for this workshop.**

For Details on joining please visit: <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/cfp/join/>

It is important to RSVP by 6th April 2009

To advertise your section's CPD events in the Profiler, please email details to
Andrew Day (Andrew.day@deakin.edu.au).