



# The Profiler

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLLEGE OF FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGISTS

VOLUME 9



The Australian Psychological Society Ltd.

JUNE 2010

## CHAIR'S COLUMN

As this is my last column in the Profiler before the AGM I will use it to give you my annual report. This will also be my last annual report as I am stepping down as chair at the end of my term. As has been the case since I commenced my term as chair developments around the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) required much of the attention of the Committee. The advantage of being a member of a college was demonstrated when the Psychology Board of Australia announced that psychologists who are members of the College on 30 June 2010 will automatically be endorsed as forensic psychologists when their States or Territories join the NRAS. Associate members who are still undergoing supervision on 30 June will not be automatically endorsed, but will have to apply for endorsement when they complete their supervision period. I urge those of you who fall in the latter category to ensure that you have a written supervision plan that has been signed off by your supervisor and you before 30 June 2010. There is a document on the College website that you can use to guide you at: <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/cfp/join/>

I also encourage you to consult the *frequently asked questions* section of the Psychology Board's website: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/index.php>

Despite the distractions brought about by the developments around the NRAS, the Committee has continued working on aspects of its strategic plan. I will briefly report on developments in this regard:

### **Develop the brand of forensic psychology**

The Committee and the national office had a stall at the conference of the Australia and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law (ANZAPPL) which was held at Fremantle in November 2009 to promote forensic psychology. The College is, with the assistance of the Queensland section, arranging the third forensic psychology conference that will take place in Noosa in August 2011. Thanks to the organising committee

under Gavan Palk for the work they have already done and will be doing in future. I will leave it to the organising committee to tell you what they have arranged. I will also leave some of the activities aimed at developing the brand of forensic psychology for later in the report where they fit in better.

### **Developing, setting and maintaining standards**

We identified clusters of competencies of members of the College, developed course approval guidelines and developed supervision guidelines to assist associate members who are seeking full membership to structure their supervision plans so that they meet membership criteria. The Committee is working with the national office to develop online facilities that will allow us to provide more professional development and supervision opportunities. A subcommittee is also working with staff at the national office to develop practice certificates in forensic psychology.

### **Recognition of forensic psychology as a speciality**

The Committee has been working with the national office to improve the profile of forensic psychologists amongst other psychologists, the public and in the media. This included contributing articles to InPsych and identifying prominent forensic psychologists to take part in a Foxtel television show on high profile offenders. The Committee's project for National Psychology week was memory issues. At the time we were not successful in attracting media attention, but the work led to an interview by Damien Carrick of the Radio National Law Report with Professor Neil Brewer. The interview was broadcast on 8 June, for a transcript see: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/lawreport/stories/2010/2919939.htm>

### **Sustainable college**

When it commenced its activities the Committee recognised that to be a sustainable college we had to grow our numbers and leaders within the College. It is therefore with pleasure that I report that we have increased membership. Our membership has grown by 32% during the past 12 months from 262 members at 21/7/09 to 346 at 31/5/10. We currently have 250 full, 19 associate, 52 student

and 25 affiliate members. Thank you to everybody who has contributed to making this growth possible.

I have also noted an increase in younger members taking on leadership positions on their section boards. I think this is a very positive occurrence for the College and encourage those of you who have not taken on a leadership position to consider doing so. The College is small and we can only be effective if each of us makes a contribution. I believe that the best way of achieving this, and developing future leaders, is to involve as many members as possible in the management of the business of the College at national and local level. To ensure that we have the maximum possible number of people serving on the national committee, I asked Committee members not to serve as office bearers if they are ex officio members of the Committee in any event. Section committees can increase their numbers by co-opting additional members.

Subcommittees of the Committee are investigating methods to produce resources for use by college members and investigating how the College can coordinate and support professional development activities by national and international experts.

The Committee has been developing closer relationships with universities that have forensic psychology programs to optimise the collaboration between the different programs and the College and also to see how the College can support forensic psychology programs.

I am happy to report that we have been overwhelmed by submissions for the Maconochie prize which is an indirect sign that forensic psychology in Australia is developing its own research base.

The final very good news under this heading is that College members in Tasmania are busy forming a section. Best wishes to Dr Georgie O'Donnell and her colleagues and thanks to the Victorian Branch who will act as "foster parents".

### **Accountability**

The major project under this heading is the development of practical guidelines, one on the writing of court reports and the other on working with people in detention. The chair of the Ethical guidelines committee of the APS has agreed to co-opt members of the College to work with his committee in developing these guidelines.

### **Advocacy and marketing**

The Committee has not made much progress on identifying pockets of money for forensic psychologists and areas where forensic psychologists are

excluded from. It has started identifying policy making groups who we should lobby. As reported above we promoted forensic psychology to lawyers and psychiatrists at the ANZAPPL conference. Advocacy on behalf of forensic psychologists and the promotion of forensic psychology are important areas and I hope the Committee will be able to give more attention to these issues once the flurry of activity around the NRAS has subsided.

### **Communication with members**

We trust that our attempts to improve our communication with you have been successful. We have tried to do this by regular, but not too many, emails to members and developing the webpage. Thanks to Kerri Pezos for the work she has done in this regard. We would like to see the webpage become an important resource for all college members and to do this we need your assistance in the form of contributions. Please contact the Committee if you have any ideas on how we can further develop the webpage and if you think you could help us developing it. The Profiler has improved greatly thanks to the solo efforts of Andrew Day. Andrew has indicated that he wishes to stand down and we are desperately looking for a member, or a group of members, to take over from him. Please contact Mary-Anne Martin if you are interested in serving as editor or co-editor of the Profiler. We also need the contributions from members.

### **Outward focus**

The committee members believe that the College should be more involved with social justice issues and a sub-committee is working on ways in which the College can encourage policy makers to adopt policies that will prevent crime through promotion of early intervention strategies. This is a long term project that you will hear more of. The College is also exploring how it can establish links with international bodies and will have a joint meeting with Division 10 (Psychology and Law) of the International Association of Applied Psychology at the ICAP conference. You are invited to attend the meeting that will take place concurrently with the AGM. A notice of the AGM, and agenda and proxy form will be bulk emailed to you on Friday 18 June, 2010 and the AGM will be held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm - 7:30pm.

I trust that this overview of the activities of the College demonstrate that the Committee has been very active even though the work of the Committee is not always visible.

I thank Bob Montgomery in his capacity as president of the APS, Lyn Littlefield, Helen Lindner, Anna Terrington, Jennifer Hepburn; and other staff members at the national office for their support and assistance. Thank you to those members who

have during the year undertaken tasks for the College but who I have not mentioned by name. A special word of thanks from the Committee and me to those of you serving on section committees. A final thank you to the members of the national committee whose names I list below for their support and hard work.

#### Office bearers

Ms Mary-Anne Martin	Co-opted as deputy chair
Dr Leonie Coxon	Secretary
Dr Jack White	Treasurer
Mr Gavan Palk	Co-opted as membership secretary
Dr Greg Dear	Course approval secretary
Mr Ronnie Zuessman	Professional development secretary

#### Ex officio members

Associate Professor Andrew Day	As editor of the Profiler and chair of the SA section
Dr David Bright	Chair of NSW section
Dr Michael Daffern	Chair of Vic section
Dr Greg Dear	Chair of WA section
Mr Gavan Palk	Chair of Qld section

#### Co-opted members

Francesca Bell	Student representative
Kerri Pezos	Web Master

I think the Committee will allow me, and join me, in saying a special word of thanks to Leonie Coxon and Mary-Anne Martin who will not be standing for re-election. They were stalwarts on the Committee. On a personal level I would like to thank Mary-Anne Martin who was co-opted by the Committee as deputy chair when I was appointed to the Psychology Board of Australia. Without her assistance I would not have been able to carry on serving as chair until now.

Finally, thank you to each of you who communicated with me during the last two years. It was an honour to serve as the chair of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists.

Professor Alfred Allan, Chair CFP.

## Survey update

The College website contains links to a survey to determine who we think is the most influential forensic psychologist in the world (past or present)? Please follow the link if you wish to participate in the survey. [View survey.](#)

The list of nominations received so far is probably worthy of some reflection (see below in alphabetical order) – thus far Robert Hare has received the most votes. Please send any comments to the editor:

- John Adams
- James Bonta
- Robert Hare
- Elizabeth Loftus
- Hugo Münsterberg
- Dick Rogers

## College Awards

The College awards an annual prize to the best student thesis, known as the Maconochie Prize. Below is a list of nominees for the 2010 prize (nominations have now closed).

- SAMANTHA BROWN
- DR RITA CAUCHI
- LINDA DAVEY
- BERNADETTE DEMPSEY
- DOMINIC DOYLE
- BROOKE FELTIS
- LOUISA HACKETT
- KIRIN HILLIAR
- PAUL LENNY
- JOHN NOLAN
- STEVEN WRIGHT

For further information please visit:

<http://www.psychology.org.au/about/awards/>

## National Forensic Conference

The next conference will be held 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at Noosa in Queensland. The theme will be: Diversity and Specialisation in Forensic Psychology (with a focus on ethical and professional practice).



Conference venue

# TRAINING IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY: PROFILING CURRENT COURSES

At a recent College meeting, representatives from all of the currently accredited training programs in forensic psychology were invited to submit a brief description of their program to the Profiler. The responses we received are reproduced below (in alphabetical order). The intention is to provide members (and prospective students) with some information about the different training pathways that are currently available in Australia, as well as to highlight some of the distinctive features of each of the programs.

## **Bond University: Masters in Forensic Psychology**

The MPsych (Forensic) program at Bond University commenced in January 2006 and received full accreditation by the APS Forensic College and Australian Psychology Accreditation Council in 2008. Bond University offers a unique learning environment with high student to staff ratios ensuring that each student has easy and quick access to highly qualified and experienced clinical and forensic staff. The Bond University Psychology Clinic has a strong referral base for clinical and forensic clients with a variety of presentations. Students in the MPsych (Forensic) program gain experience in the assessment and treatment of clients referred by the criminal justice system, social welfare agencies, private practitioners, and other sources. The Bond Psychology Clinic has developed a program for the treatment of internet sex offenders, and also treats contact sex offenders as well as a range of other offence types. Specialised forensic psychology assessments have been provided by interns for criminal, children's and family court.

The theoretical component of the MPsych (Forensic) program includes an overview of programs developed within the Risk-Needs-Responsivity framework, as well as covering a range of specific category offenders such as juveniles, indigenous offenders, offenders with personality disorder and psychopathic characteristics, and female offenders. Students are trained in forensic assessment, DSM-IV diagnosis and in the treatment of psychopathology for a range of clinical presentations. The program is firmly grounded in the scientist-practitioner model.

The program has received excellent feedback from students. The features typically highlighted by students include the broad theoretical content, exposure to interesting and varied client presentations while engaged in the practical training component, and positive interactions with staff. The program offers a range of external placement opportunities to students in a diverse range of settings allowing students to develop their practical skills. The temperate Gold Coast climate and outstanding campus facilities are also, of course, also a real bonus for Bond University students!

## **Deakin University: Doctor of Psychology (Forensic)**

The D.Psych (Forensic) is offered by the School of Psychology within the Faculty of Health, Medicine, Nursing and Behavioural Sciences. It is a three year full-time course (24 credit points) covering three inter-related and equally weighted strands – theory (coursework), research, and practica. The course is classified as a research degree because the thesis consists of an empirical study as well as a separate portfolio of case reports centred on a clinical theme. However, the course is designed primarily to provide graduates the skills necessary to practice as a forensic psychologist. The course has been accredited and approved by the Australian Psychological Society and the College of Forensic Psychologists.

Overall, Deakin University's Doctor of Psychology (Forensic) specialises in (but does not exclusively focus on) the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents, and their families within the legal context. In-depth coverage of this specialty area is provided in the third year where students undertake the unit *Children and the Law* along with placements in agencies specialising in these clients.

## **Monash University: Clinical Forensic Doctor of Psychology**

**This degree is offered by the School of Psychology and Psychiatry within the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. The course entails three principal components: coursework, practica, and research. The coursework covers the key components of clinical psychology. The practica entail three semesters of practical experience in professional settings. The research component comprises one study or a series of studies on a topic of direct relevance to clinical psychology. Those students undertaking the Clinical Forensic Psychology specialisation are eligible for membership of the APS College of Clinical Psychologist and also the APS College of Forensic Psychologists, providing their doctoral thesis is in an area directly relevant to forensic psychology.**



During the third year of the DPsych course, students complete the Clinical Forensic Psychology specialisation. The forensic specialisation consists of seminars, workshops, and ongoing clinical training. It provides students with scholarly, legal, and practical information to help prepare them conduct forensic assessments and provide clinical assessment and intervention in the forensic context. The seminars that form part of the specialisation consist of four related subjects, as well as relevant workshops. Nominally, the subjects are broken into four units: Introduction to Clinical Forensic Psychology, Psychology and Children's and Family Law, Psychology and Criminal Law, Psychology and Civil Law. The seminars are coordinated by Professor Ogloff and Dr Daffern, although a number of guest speakers are invited to provide information on specific topics. Examples of specific topics offered include: Introduction to criminal forensic assessment, malingering and deception, psychopathy, risk assessment, domestic violence, sexual offending, fitness to plead, criminal responsibility, treatment of mentally ill offenders and forensic patients, offender intake and classification, sentencing assessments, and communicating with the courts. The clinical seminars, coursework and clinical training components of the specialisation are interrelated.

Students are also required to attend an introductory three day workshop entitled, "Introduction to Australian Law," ongoing presentations, as well as relevant workshops that are available (e.g., the assessment of risk for violence, child custody assessments, training in psychopathy). All students undertaking the forensic specialisation are required to complete an internship that will take place over two days during the year.

You can put my email or Richards ([Richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au](mailto:Richard.kemp@unsw.edu.au)) as contacts for further program information.

### **The University of New South Wales: Master of Psychology (Forensic) program**

This is an APAC accredited program that has been in existence for over a decade. As one of the three streams (Forensic, Clinical and Organisational) of graduate level Psychology programs offered, the Forensic program is a two year (full time) or four year (part time) program offering a strong Scientist-Practitioner model of teaching and training. The program consists of three components – coursework, thesis and placements. The Forensic Program is unique in its offering of specialised law courses for the forensic students as part of the coursework. Placements occur continuously throughout the program, 1000 hours of both research/policy and clinical placements are required to be completed. Placements are offered at a variety sites including governmental, NGO and private practice sites. UNSW Master of Psychology (Forensic) Program and CSNSW (Correctional Services of NSW) are currently negotiating the development of a site that will offer evidence based clinical forensic training, supervision and research. Cohorts of 12-15 Masters and Masters/PhD combined students are admitted yearly.

## **ICAP 2010**

The International Congress of applied Psychology, being held in Melbourne from 11-16 July looks set to be of great interest to forensic psychologists. The scientific committee for the congress has received over 3,500 abstracts from more than 60 countries. This is the largest congress on applied psychology in the world and more than 4,000 delegates are expected to attend. Professor Paul Slovik, one of the world's leading scholars on genocide and risk is the key note speaker. Professor James Ogloff and Professor Kevin Douglas are all presenting keynote addresses and various symposium featuring leading forensic psychologists from within Australia will also feature. There will be two workshops presented that have a definite forensic focus- Professor Paul Mullen will present a one day workshop on stalking and Dr Michael Daffern, Assoc Prof. Trish Martin and Ms. Tessa Ginders will present a half day workshop on violence within institutions. A range of other workshops are being offered at the conference. For information please see:

<http://www.icap2010.com/workshops.php>

This year's AGM will be held at the congress on Tuesday evening at 6PM followed by drinks so we will look forward to seeing you there. For more information on the congress go to:

<http://www.icap2010.com/>

Furthermore, during the week of the congress Prof. Kevin Douglas will be presenting a workshop: 'Mental Disorder and Violence: State of the field and what to do about it'

Details below:

The relationship between mental disorder and violence has been a subject of study and controversy for decades. Reference to the potential association between mental disorder and violence can be traced as far back as Ancient Greek scholars such as Plato and Socrates. This half-day workshop, we will focus on three topics.

First, what is the contemporary understanding of the (potential) association between mental disorder and violence? The specificity and complexity of diagnostic nomenclature has advanced since the time of Plato and Socrates. Hence, we will discuss the relative role of various types of mental and personality disorders in violent behaviour (from psychosis to personality disorder). Second, we will turn to a discussion of how mental disorder, particularly psychosis and psychopathy, can inform risk assessment and management formulation at the individual level. Third, we will consider recent evidence on the effectiveness and efficacy of mental health and psychosocial interventions to reduce violent behaviour amongst persons with psychosis. This workshop will be of relevance to anybody who must conduct risk assessment and formulate risk management plans.

Workshop presenter: Kevin S. Douglas is Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Law and Forensic Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology, at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. He

is also Guest Professor of Applied Criminology at Mid-Sweden University, in Sundsvall, Sweden. He received his law degree in 2000 from the University of British Columbia, and his Ph.D. in clinical (forensic) psychology from Simon Fraser University in 2002. He has approximately 100 authored or co-authored publications on the topics of violence, risk assessment and management, the association between mental disorder and violence, and psychopathy. He is co-author of the Historical-Clinical-Risk Management-20 (HCR-20) Violence Risk Assessment Scheme, which is used broadly around the world and has been translated into 16 languages. Dr. Douglas is a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Career Scholar (2005-2010) and recipient of the Saleem Shah Award for Early Career Excellence in Psychology and Law (2005), awarded jointly by the American Psychology-Law Society and the American Academy of Forensic Psychology. His research has been funded by the National Science Foundation (USA), Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2010 1pm – 5.00pm

SEMINAR ROOM, CENTRE FOR FORENSIC BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE, 505 HODDLE STREET, CLIFTON HILL

Cost \$150 inc. GST (refreshments provided)

Registrations close: Monday 12 July; Contact - Maree Stanford 03 9947 2600, [maree.stanford@forensicare.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.stanford@forensicare.vic.gov.au)

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Want Your State Section Continuing Professional Development Endorsed by the College?

There are two ways to 'count' your continuing professional development towards membership renewal requirements of the College.

One is to record the professional development activities you are involved with on your [APS CPD log sheet](#). This method requires you to maintain documentation not only of the title, place, duration, and presenter of the activity, but it also requires you to make sure that it compares with the content of the activity to College course approval guidelines in the areas of ethical, legal and professional matters; psychological assessment and measurement; intervention strategies; and research and evaluation. When you are audited retrospectively, there is no guarantee that a particular activity will be accepted and, if that results in bringing your total hours below the requirement, you may not meet criteria for membership renewal.

The second is to prospectively submit an [Application for Endorsement of a Professional Development Activ-](#)

[ity](#) to the APS national office. For College Sections, there is no fee, but all of the details regarding the activity, syllabus, duration, presenter must be submitted. This is then forwarded to the College Chair of Professional Development for assessment. When an activity is endorsed by the College there is automatic acceptance of that activity towards your College-specific continuing professional development requirements.

We would strongly encourage State Sections to seek endorsement of their own professional development activities.

Ronnie Zuessman, PhD  
Chair Professional Development, College of Forensic Psychologists

The following events have received approval to award specialist PD points:

- How to be a Psychologist in Court - Chris Lennings 4 September 2010 Sydney
- Risk Assessment of Sexual Abuse in Family and Children's Court - Chris Lennings 12 June 2010 Sydney
- Violence Risk Assessment, Case Formulation and Offence Paralleling Behaviour - Michael Daffern 18 June 2010 Sydney
- Theory-informed assessment and case formulation with adults and youth who have committed sexual offences Steven Smallbone 26 June 2010 Mt Gravatt, QLD
- Investigative Interviewing of Suspected Offenders: Good Forensic Practice? - Martine Powell 5 November 2010 Adelaide
- Introduction to Using In-Custody Offence Paralleling Behaviour (OPB) to Inform Risk Assessment and Intervention - Michael Daffern 3 September 2010 Adelaide



## College of Forensic Psychologists Victorian Section

The Victorian section will be having its annual student research day on the 14th October, a presentation on the 11th August on domestic violence, a 1/2 day workshop by Assoc. Prof. Andrew Day on Thursday 11th November, and our annual general meeting on Wednesday evening the 8th December at University House, Melbourne University. All welcome. Please contact Michael Daffern for more information on any of these events or consult Psych News for Victorian members).



College of Forensic Psychologists  
New South Wales

Violence Risk Assessment, Case Formulation and Offence Paralleling Behaviour, Dr Michael Daffern, Friday 18 June 2010 (SOLD OUT).

The NSW section is planning two other PD events for 2010. Further details, including dates, will be forthcoming.



College of Forensic Psychologists SA Section

In 2010 we have the following events scheduled:

**Dr Michael Daffern: Introduction to using in-custody Offence Paralleling Behaviour (OPB) to inform risk assessment and intervention**

When: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010, 2.45-5.15pm.  
Where: Parkview Room, Fullarton Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Adelaide.

Cost: \$10-\$60 depending on level of APS membership (APS non-members very welcome). Please register through the APS website under the events calendar: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?ID=5766>

**Professor Martine Powell: Investigative interviewing of suspected offenders: Good forensic practice?**

When: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.45-5.30pm.  
Where: Parkview Room, Fullarton Centre, 411 Fullarton Road, Adelaide.

Cost: \$10-\$60 depending on level of APS membership (APS non-members very welcome). Please register through the APS website under the events calendar: <http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?ID=5940>

Enquires: Andrew Day [andrew.day@deakin.edu.au](mailto:andrew.day@deakin.edu.au) or mob. 0403 064239



College of Forensic Psychologists  
Queensland Section

Seminar schedule June 2010 – December 2010

Date	Topic	Pre-senter	Format (6-7pm)	Location
26 Jun 2010	Sexual offenders – assessment and risk management	Prof Stephen Smallbone	1 day	Griffith University (Mt Gravatt)
28 Jul 2010 (date to be confirmed)	Forensic mental health	Dr Ed Hefferman	1 hour	"433 on Logan" (in Stones Corner) Conference facility
12 Oct 2010	Psychological autopsies	Roz Robertson	1 hour	"433 on Logan" (in Stones Corner) Conference facility
November 2010 (date to be confirmed)	Treating internet sex offenders	Angela Carr + Prof David Middleton	1 day	Bond University
8 Dec 2010 End of year function and AGM	Prosecuting evil: the Cambodian genocide trials (includes end of year function)	Prof Paul Wilson	1 hour	"433 on Logan" (in Stones Corner) Conference facility



College of Forensic Psychologists  
Western Australia Section

No PD events received.

Please send all contributions to the Profiler to Andrew Day. Email: [andrew.day@deakin.edu.au](mailto:andrew.day@deakin.edu.au)