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The Editor

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The Profiler

Newsletter of the College of Forensic Psychologists

Chair's Column

Welcome to the latest issue of The Profiler. I would like to begin by thanking Sam van der Wijngaart for editing the Profiler. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of our national executive for their efforts over the last year and for the organising committee of our conference in Noosa for creating an excellent professional development and networking event. The APS team are also to be thanked for assisting us create another successful conference.

Included in this edition of The Profiler is the Chair's report, which was submitted to the AGM, held in August at our college conference. This encompasses much of what I wanted to share with you in this issue of The Profiler.

Since this report was created there have been another few important points of interest for our members.

Firstly, it was declared at our college conference that the next conference will be held in Western Australia in 2013. Ms Mary-Anne Martin, a stalwart of the WA section is chairing the organising committee for this conference. We will continue to provide updates on this conference as it takes shape.

Recently Professor Martine Powell was awarded the APS Forensic College Award of Distinction. Professor Powell, whose nomination for this award is included in this issue of the Profiler is a highly regarded and internationally renowned academic who has given generously of her time to our college. Another one of our members who was recently recognised for his efforts for our college and the APS more broadly is Professor Andrew Day. Professor Day, an experienced clinician and world renowned researcher has become a Fellow of the APS. Professor Day is the immediate

past chair of the SA section and a member of our national executive. I would like to thank both Martine and Andrew for their contributions to the college and extend my congratulations for these awards.

Finally the Maconochie prize for 2011 was been awarded to Peter Ashkar. Within this issue you will see the abstract of the winning entry.

In this issue of The Profiler you will see a review of our conference and an update on various activities of our college from around the country. You will also see reports from national executive members that were submitted to our AGM. If you have any questions regarding these reports or would like to raise issues with me please feel free to contact me at the following e-mail address: Michael.daffern@monash.edu

Best wishes for the remainder of the year and for 2012.
Michael Daffern

Forensic College National Executive at Noosa



3rd National Forensic Psychology Conference Report

4 – 6 August 2011, Noosa, QLD

*Hosted by Australian Psychological Society
College of Forensic Psychologists
(Queensland Section)*

The 3rd National Forensic Psychology Conference was hosted and sponsored by the Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Forensic Psychologists and the Queensland Section of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists. There were 73 oral presentations delivered via individual papers, symposia and practice forums and 29 posters in two sessions. Pre conference workshops were also available and included: Diagnosis in flux: Best practices in forensic deployment of the DSM-5 and ICD-11; Advances in assessment of adolescents in juvenile justice; Forensic applications of the personality assessment inventory; and Assessing Families: Practical and legal considerations in the Family Court.

Individual research papers covered a broad range of topics within forensic psychology, including speciality courts, sex offending, general offending, substance abuse, profiling, violent offenders, young offenders, Indigenous offenders, program evaluation, assessment and psychological defences in the court. Symposia and practice forums delivered oral presentations in: Innovations in the assessment and treatment of forensic clients with intellectual disabilities; Human rights and responsibilities in the Children's Court; The Australian jury: grappling with legal instructions and jury attitudes; Applying forensic evaluation to workplace discrimination; Collaborative practice between psychologists and lawyers; and Policing individuals with mental health concerns. The conference was attended by 321 registered delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Poland, United States, India and Iran. Student prizes were awarded for two

outstanding oral presentations (Kate O'Brien and Jeffrey Pfeifer) and two outstanding poster presentations (Christina Kozar and Brandie Sanders).

As Chair of the organising committee I would like to thank the other members of the organising committee, the undergraduate students from the Queensland University of Technology's School of Psychology and Counselling and Bond University who volunteered to assist with registration, conference materials, and conference functions. I would also like to thank the APS Event organisers who worked hard to ensure a successful conference.

Dr Gavan Palk
Conference Chair

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dr Gavan Palk, Conference Chair
Professor Paul Wilson, Associate Professor Kate Fritzon, Ms. Therese Ellis-Smith, Mr. Alec Jones, Ms. Jacqui Yoxall, Assistant Professor Bruce Watts, Assistant Professor Rebekah Doley, Scientific Committee Chair



APS Forensic Psychology National Conference Organising Committee (L to R): Jacqui Yoxall, Diane Barber, Alec Jones, Paul Wilson, Gavan Palk, and Therese Ellis-Smith (absent Katarina Fritzon)

Forensic Psychology in the Media

A sustained media campaign was undertaken to promote the National Forensic Psychology Conference and its research and practice presentations to the wider community, and this attracted substantial media interest. Overall, data shows more than 150 media items about the conference appeared (23 print, 20 radio and 115 online), reaching an estimated audience of more than 2.4 million people (which doesn't include the total international online audience reached).

Media highlights

- Keynote speaker Professor Paul Wilson appeared on Conversations, ABC radio Brisbane and syndicated around Queensland and NSW, for an in-depth one hour conversation on the miscarriages of justice and wrongful convictions, which also featured on the high profile Radio National program, Life Matters.
- The Weekend Australian featured a piece, 'When the devil is in the detail: The forensic psychologist is called on to interpret human behaviour', which included an interview with Forensic College Chair Dr Michael Daffern and information about forensic psychology, the College and the conference.
- APS footage of the forensic hypothetical featured at the conference is to be broadcast on Big Ideas TV, ABC.
- Dr Gavan Palk's presentation on women, alcohol and violence was a news sensation, resulting in multiple radio interviews, print articles and online articles. This story was widely distributed throughout Australia and around the world.
- Professor James Ogloff's research on mentally ill people caught up in police custody was featured in the Sunday Age, traditionally one of the most well-read publications.
- US keynote Professor Karen Franklin was interviewed by Psychiatry Update and a major feature article involving her conference presentation on 'Global containment and escape: Alternate visions for forensic psychology', and papers by Australian presenters Professor Andrew Day and Marlene Morison on the climate of Australian jails, are scheduled to appear in the Sunday Age in the coming months.

Karen Coghlan, Senior Media Coordinator, National Office (reprinted from InPsych)



Queensland Branch

Seminar schedule to December 2011

Date	Topic	Presenter	Format	Location
7 Dec 2011	Wilson's Hypotheticals & End of Year party	Prof Paul Wilson	2 hour	Stones Corner

Blog—Karen Franklin

Karen Franklin, PhD is a forensic psychologist in California, USA. She blogs about forensic psychology, criminology and psychology-law.

Heartening differences between Australian and US forensic psychology: A perspective from the Forensic Psychology National Conference in Noosa.

While in Noosa this month I met with delegates from around Australia who could resonate with how mass incarceration is changing our field. Unless we hold firmly to both our science and our humanism, forensic psychology could be destined to sink into a technocratic abyss.

I was struck by several differences between this Australian conference and the typical American forensic psychology gathering.

First, not surprisingly, I found the Aussies to be far less ethnocentric than Americans. The forensic psychologists I met were keenly aware of research and development in other Western nations. They see themselves as part of an international forensic community.

Even more striking was the prominence of human rights discourse. Several speakers focused on respect for human rights as an essential starting point for ethical and moral practice. Alfred Allan, an ethicist and member of the national psychology board, warned in his keynote of the perils of drifting away from psychology's traditional roots as a healing profession, due to forensic and correctional pressures.

Similarly, Astrid Birgden, who for five years ran a special therapeutic prison for drug offenders in New South Wales, focused in a panel presentation on the

importance of respecting prisoners' dignity and autonomy. A starting point for rehabilitation, she said, was to select supportive staff and train them to be respectful toward prisoners.

Finally, I was struck by the prioritisation of prisoner rehabilitation. In the punitive atmosphere of US corrections, rehabilitative efforts have largely gone by the wayside. In contrast, they seem high on the priority list for correctional administrators in at least some Australian states.

For example, Marlene Morrison, a forensic psychologist and deputy commissioner of corrections in Queensland, described an innovative reality TV show co-produced by the 7 Network and the prison system. In Conviction Kitchen, a dozen paroled prisoners work at a restaurant in Brisbane, rebuilding their lives while learning an employable skill. By showing the prisoners as human beings with families and aspirations, the show has modestly helped to improve public attitudes toward rehabilitation, she reported.

Of course, the 300 conference delegates were a select group, including teachers and senior practitioners. But it was heartening to meet so many forensic psychologists who share a concern for the broader direction of the field during this era of intensive incarceration.



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Original available from:
<http://www.psychiatryupdate.com.au/getattachment/543ed99b-8372-4258-af72-aec9a200081f/pdf.aspx>.

Karen's regular forensic psychology blog is found at <http://forensicpsychologist.blogspot.com/>

Each year the APS recognises members who have made an outstanding contribution to the APS and to the advancement of psychological knowledge or practice by electing them as Fellows of the Society. Sixteen members were elected as APS Fellows at the 2011 APS Annual General Meeting. Two of them are members of the Forensic College.

Professor Martine Powell

Martine Powell is Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the Doctor of Psychology (Forensic) at Deakin University. She is internationally recognised for her work in child witness testimony and investigative interviewing, having almost singlehandedly been responsible for the introduction of psychological principles in the interviewing of children by police in all states of Australia.

Martine completed her PhD at Monash University in 1996, which examined children's recall of repeated events. In her role as lecturer, senior lecturer and then professor of psychology at Deakin University she has overseen the establishment of Deakin's forensic psychology program. Further, she has assisted in the development or administration of numerous investigative interviewer training programs offered by universities, government departments and police services across the globe. Martine has authored or co-authored 149 articles in refereed journals or books, as well as given many conference presentations, and has had editorial responsibilities in several international journals. In recent years, Martine has researched the relationship of language competencies to offending and explored how instigators of sexual crimes are affected by their actions. She has also contributed to improving the quality of investigations of the police and other agencies that investigate offences against children, and cases where Aboriginal people are offenders or victims of crime. She is a sought-after and effective presenter of workshops to psychologists and non-psychologists both in Australia and overseas.



Martine was on the APS Ethics Committee (2000–2003) and the Victorian Executive Committee of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists (2003–2005).

Professor Andrew Day

Andrew Day is Professor in Clinical Forensic Psychology at Deakin University. Before joining academia he was employed as a clinical psychologist in South Australia and the UK, having gained his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Birmingham and his Masters in Applied Criminological Psychology from the University of London.

Since leaving full-time professional practice, Andrew has established a strong academic profile as a forensic and clinical psychologist. He has been a productive researcher, having published widely and completed a number of national competitive and contract research grants. His specific expertise lies in the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, and there is a clear focus in his teaching and research on bringing about change at an individual and community level. He is particularly interested in the development of skills and knowledge that can inform and enhance the delivery of professional psychological services in the criminal justice arena.

Andrew is a member of the National Executive Committee of the APS College of Forensic Psychologists (1999–2000 and 2008–present) and is the immediate past Chair of the South Australian section (2008–2010), having served as a committee member since 2002 and Treasurer from 2007–2008. He has served on the scientific committees for the last two Forensic College national conferences.

Reprinted from InPsych

<http://www.psychology.org.au/Content.aspx?ID=3978>

Machonachie Prize Winners 2011

The Prize aims to encourage and reward outstanding forensic psychology research by students. The Prize is awarded for publication in a refereed journal of an article by the student based on his/her Honours, Masters or Doctoral thesis.

The 2011 Prize was won by Peter Ashkar, University of Sydney. Runner-up was Julieanne Read from Monash University. Their abstracts are reproduced below.

Moral Reasoning of Adolescent Male Offenders

Comparison of Sexual and Nonsexual Offenders

[Peter J. Ashkar](#) *University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*

[Dianna T. Kenny](#) *University of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia*, D.Kenny@fhs.usyd.edu.au

This study compares the moral reasoning abilities of juvenile sexual and nonsexual offenders using a novel methodology that explores responses to questions addressing morality in a variety of offending contexts. Seven sexual and nine nonsexual adolescent male offenders from a maximum security detention facility in New South Wales, Australia, are presented with and asked to discuss a variety of hypothetical offending situations involving sexual and nonsexual offences. It is hypothesized that the quality of moral reasoning employed by offenders will be impaired in offending contexts in which they have prior experience. Responses are assessed using a modified version of the Moral Judgment Interview Standard Issue Scoring Manual. Responses by sexual offenders in sexual offending contexts and by nonsexual offenders in nonsexual offending contexts were dominated by preconventional reasoning, and both groups employed a greater use of conventional reasoning in noncongruent offending contexts.

doi: 10.1177/0093854806288118 *Criminal Justice and Behavior* January 2007 vol. 34 no. 1 108-118

<http://cjb.sagepub.com/content/34/1/108>

Improving the Legal Aspects of Police Interviewing of Suspects

[Julianne M. Read](#) *Deakin University, Victoria, Australia*

[Martine B. Powell](#) *Deakin University, Victoria, Australia*

The purpose of this paper is to provide some guidance to police interviewers and trainers in relation to improving the legal aspects of police questioning of suspects. The paper is written with reference to Victorian legislation. Sixteen professionals (defence barristers, academics, prosecutors, and detectives), all with extensive knowledge of the law and experience evaluating police interviews with suspects, took part in individual in-depth interviews ($M = 100$ minutes). The aim of the interviews was to discuss the limitations of police interviews with suspects and to provide exemplars of concerns from a set of de-identified transcripts that had been provided to the professionals prior to their interviews with us. Overall, four key limitations were raised: (a) inadequate particularisation of offences, (b) inappropriate phrasing of questions, (c) poor introduction of allegations, and (d) questions that unfairly ask the suspect to comment on the victim's perspective. These concerns and their practical implications are discussed.

doi:10.1080/13218719.2010.543399 *Psychiatry, Psychology and Law* *Volume 18, Issue 4, 2011*

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13218719.2010.543399>



South Australian branch presents:

The Good Lives Model and Desistance: An Elaborated Practice Model

Professor Tony Ward will summarise the revised Good Lives Model (GLM-D) and outline desistance theory and research. He suggests that the integration of ideas regarding desistance from offending and the GLM-D provides an enriched practice model that goes well beyond treatment guidance. Finally, he will present some case examples that demonstrate how to use the GLM-D to structure assessment and intervention work with offenders.

Venue: Duke of Brunswick Hotel, 207 Gilbert St, Adelaide

Date: 16/12/11

Time: **Workshop:** 1.30-5.00pm

AGM: 5-6pm

Xmas drinks and snacks: 6pm

Contact for Queries: Astrid Birgden (astrid99@hotmail.com)

Register Online: Places are limited so register early on the APS CPD Site at:- <http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?ID=9056>

Links of Interest

The following are not endorsed by the College or the APS, but may be of interest to readers.

www.anzappl.org

Established in the late 70's, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology And Law (ANZAPPL) is committed to exploring the relationship between psychiatry, psychology and the law.

www.aija.org

The AIJA is a research and educational institute associated with Monash University. The principal objectives of the Institute include research into judicial administration and the development and conduct of educational programmes for judicial officers, court administrators and members of the legal profession in relation to court administration and judicial systems.



Early bird closes 30 November 2011

Psychologists invited to participate in research on violence risk assessment practice

Psychologists and provisional psychologists are invited to participate in an online survey about recognising and assessing risks of client violence toward others. This survey explores the attitudes, practices and training of Australian psychologists regarding the assessment of client violence risk. Participation will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete and is completely anonymous - you will not be asked to provide your name, or identify your specific place of employment. This survey has received approval from the Swinburne University Human Research Ethics Committee. Enquiries about this research may be directed to Damien Khaw (dkhaw@groupwise.swin.edu.au).

If you wish to view additional participant information or participate in this research, please visit:

<http://opinio.online.swin.edu.au/s?s=9671>

Western Australia section report

The WA Forensic College committee have been busy planning a workshop "Stalking Risk Profile: Guidelines for the assessment and management of stalkers" with the authors, Dr Troy McEwan and Dr Rachel MacKenzie, to be held at Fremantle 30-31 October.

College members meet every couple of months to discuss case presentations as a way to meet some of the PsyBA peer supervision and active PD requirements. Recently Greg Dear presented some cases and demonstrated the pitfalls that can arise if assessors ask leading questions in assessments for cases related to compensation. He gave an excellent overview of some cases he had worked on and showed video interviews to demonstrate. The presentation was thought-provoking and generated some good discussion.

We are also about to embark on the organisation of the next biennial National APS Forensic College Conference to be held in WA in 2013. The Forensic College Conferences have always been very successful with good attendances and great opportunities for local practitioners to showcase their work and network with others. Dates to be advised soon so watch this space!

Australian Visit—Dr Randall Salekin



Emma Warne (Chair) & Randy

Dr Randy Salekin visited Australia in October 2011, as the guest of the Victorian and South Australian Forensic College branches.

Randy has published on child and adolescent psychopathy, personality, and also has research interests in child and adolescent maturity and amenability to treatment.

The workshops focussed on the assessment of juvenile offenders with some emphasis on the implications for treatment. Randy covered in some depth the factors related to the assessment of youthful offenders, while embedding developmental psychology in the assessment process. He also included a work-through of the tool he authored, the RST-I.

Prior to the South Australian workshop, Randy enjoyed a day's wine tasting in the Adelaide Hills with college members Dr Andy Day and Dr Jack White. Following the workshop, Randy joined the South Australian college committee at dinner in an Adelaide restaurant.



Randy with Louisa Hackett at Dinner



Jessica Henriksson & Randy wine tasting



Emma Warne & Sam van der Wijngaart at dinner



South Australian College Committee with Dr Salekin at the workshop

2011 Forensic College AGM Reports

Chair's Report– Michael Daffern

The last year has been a busy time for the college and the national executive. I would like to begin by thanking the National Executive for their work during the past year:

Dr Astrid Birgden	Secretary
Dr Jack White	Treasurer
Dr Gavan Palk	Membership secretary
Dr Greg Dear	Deputy Chair and Course Approval Secretary
Mr Ronnie Zuessman	Professional Development Secretary
Ms Emma Warne	Chair of the SA section
Dr David Bright	Chair of NSW section
Ms Mary-Anne Martin	Chair of WA section
Dr Gavan Palk	Chair of Qld section
Miss Kerri Pezos	Web Master
Professor Andrew Day	Committee Member
Dr Georgina O'Donnell	Committee Member
Sam van der Wijngaart	Student Representative

I would also like to thank the state section executives for their efforts and encourage non-executive members to consider participating in their local section.

There are several noteworthy accomplishments of the National Executive over the last year.

A most important accomplishment, which was pursued prior to my taking up the role of Chair, was the development of course approval guidelines. These guidelines have been an invaluable resource to the college; they clarify the bounds of our specialty, and they will be used for college course approval. They have also been drawn upon to guide the development of supervised practice guidelines and most importantly they establish the requirements for professional forensic psychology training in Australia and will hopefully ensure training

programmes are comprehensive and contemporary. Dr Greg Dear should be acknowledged for his leadership on these guidelines.

2. In 2010 the national executive, led by Professor Andrew Day developed four information sheets. These information sheets introduce useful information and some standards for work on offender rehabilitation, risk assessment, writing court reports and assessing mental impairment and fitness. These were published late in 2010 and are freely available on the APS website. In addition to outlining important practice issues related to these four areas the information sheets also promote forensic psychologists expertise in these areas, which helps notify others of our areas of expertise.

3. Membership of the college has swelled to 521 members. Although the APS assisted with some filtering, the task of scrutinising applications in 2010 rested primarily with Dr Gavan Palk, our membership secretary. Gavan, and Ms Mary-Anne Martin, who assisted, are to be thanked for their efforts. An important task in coming years is to retain members and continue to grow. Many college chairs have expressed anxiety that psychologists sought membership only because a pathway to endorsement previously existed through college membership. There are fears that psychologists will not review their membership. We are investigating ways of adding value to membership, primarily through CPD, with substantially reduced attendance rates and member only activities as a way of retaining membership.

4. Another important task being undertaken by the college is the development of ethical guidelines for forensic psychology practice. Professor Don Thomson is leading this exercise. The working party charged with developing these guidelines, which has been divided into issues related to intervention and issues pertaining to evaluation are: Dr Astrid Birgden, Dr Michael Davis, Professor Andrew Day, Dr Greg Dear, Ms Mary-Anne Martin, Dr Jennifer Neoh and myself. We hope that these guidelines will be published and available for

members later this year.

You will have noticed in your conference pack information on a special virtual issue of forensic psychology papers published in the last five years in APS journals. Professor Andrew Day edited this journal and against the background of this accomplishment we have written a proposal for another special issue on contemporary issues in forensic psychology practice for the Australian Psychologist. Professor Andrew day, Dr Greg Dear, Dr Astrid Birgden and I are pursuing this opportunity. These initiatives serve to highlight the scholarly work being undertaken in our field within Australia. The work of the National Executive in the next year is to continue to pursue the strategic plan that was developed by the previous national executive under Professor Alfred Allen. The targets within this strategic plan are: to enhance the branding of forensic psychology including promotion of forensic psychology to key stakeholders and other psychologists, to maintain and grow membership, develop a list of competencies, develop the aforementioned ethical guidelines, to maintain and improve communication with members, to support professional development and supervision opportunities for members, and to develop links with related international bodies.

Treasurer's Report—Jack White

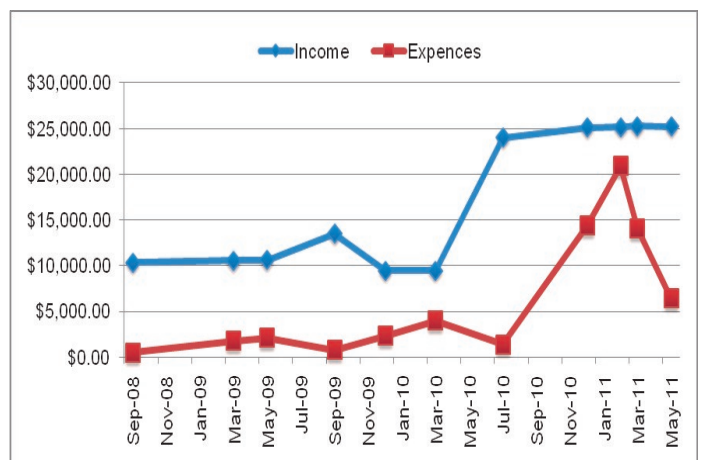
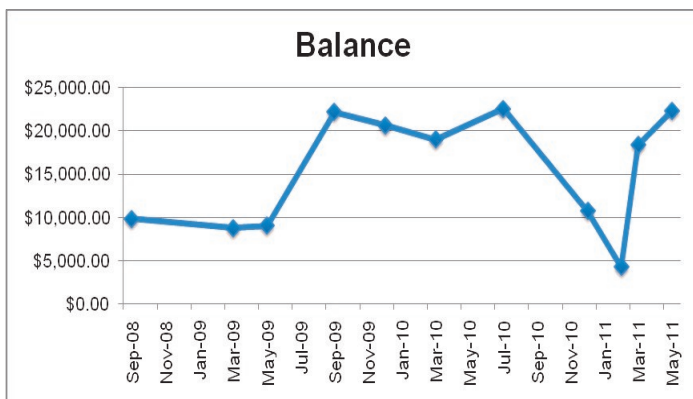
The College remains in a healthy state regarding its finances. In May 2011 our balance was **\$22,374.64** with currently 514 members. For comparison, the finance balance since 2008 is shown on the left. The distribution of Income and Expenses are shown in the graph to the right.

Professional Development Chair—Ronnie Zuessman

We have had excellent continuing professional development over the past year but not as many as we would like. One change is that the number of people applying for approval of CDVP offerings have diminished. Historically spurious applications were submitted and were not approved so over the years they have decreased. Another area that is being discussed is the type of professional development which we are looking at promoting which may include master class type formats. A third area is professional supervision but we do not have a way of identifying individuals prepared to help psychologists develop areas of competence. We have had excellent continuing professional development over the past year but not as many as we would like. One change is that the number of people applying for approval of CDVP offerings have diminished. Historically spurious applications were submitted and were not approved so over the years they have decreased. Another area that is being discussed is the type of professional development which we are looking at promoting which may include master class type formats. A third area is professional supervision but we do not have a way of identifying individuals prepared to help psychologists develop areas of competence.

Membership Secretary

The number of applications received between 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 (which is a financial year not an APS year) is 207. 181 of these applications were processed between 1/6/11/10



leading up to the cutoff date for the creation of the NPB.

Members that have renewed for 2011/12 so far:

Affiliate	47
Affiliate Downgraded	2
Associate	37
Member	303
Student	54
Total	443

Michael Daffern (Vic)- Victoria has focused on professional development and provided a thorough program- lectures, workshops, student presentations and an end-of-year function.

41 people with an IBP required but not completed
29 people with uncompleted supervision plans.

Student Representative—Sam Van Der Wijngaart

Sam reported that it is difficult to communicate with students across Australia. The Forensic College has been supportive of student issues raised, particularly the possible demise of forensic programs around the country. Some universities are starting new programs. Students are encouraged to contact Sam.

State Chairs

Emma Warne (SA)- reported that they are establishing a professional development program and peer consultation which has a small group that come together regularly. SA have linked with the Victorian Branch to bring Randy Salekin to Adelaide. SA is also trying to link in with ANZAPPL and the Clinical College.

David Mutton (NSW) for David Bight- the Sydney branch has been active in establishing professional development. NSW had a student career day designed to increase membership which went very well. Tony Ward presented on the Good Lives Model. They have a workshop on an introduction to psychopathy by Mitch Byrne. Concern regarding exclusivity/inclusivity- forensic psychologists cannot do the victim compensation reports.

Gavin Palk (Qld)- Have 70 members with seminars every 2 months and day workshops over the year. Gavan pointed out that they should not have funds by the end of the year as they need to deliver activities.