

Submissions to:

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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 thank a few other people who have been working tirelessly for the college in this very busy time. Firstly, with membership of the college having lead directly to endorsement for a defined period, we experienced an unprecedented number of applications for membership. Although the APS assisted with some filtering, the task of scrutinising these applications rested primarily with Dr Gavan Palk, our membership secretary—although Mary-Anne Martin's assistance should also be acknowledged. The college is indebted to Gavan and Mary-Anne for their efforts. It seems fitting then, at this point to welcome to the Forensic College our new members. I hope you find membership of the Forensic College enjoyable and rewarding. I would also like to invite you, and all of our longer standing members, to participate in the college's activities and to consider working on your local state committee. Our membership in several states is small and there are a limited number of people who, often year after year, volunteer to keep the state sections running. The work is not onerous but is critical and hopefully rewarding. The state committees are critical to ensuring that professional development activities are offered. On this topic I have decided to highlight new professional development requirements for registration.

Many of you would be aware that the PBA has announced Continuing Professional Development Registration standards. It is important that members understand these, otherwise they risk losing endorsement or registration (see Full details on these standards can be found at: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/Registration-Standards.aspx>). The College of Forensic Psychologists provides much of the professional development activity for forensic psychologists so the health of the state sections is critical to ensuring ongoing access to training opportunities but also for ensuring our practice is contemporary.

In summary, the new requirements demand that: A registered psychologist must complete a minimum of 30 hours of CPD activities annually. Of these, a minimum of 10 hours must be in peer consultation and 10 hours are recommended to be 'active' CPD activities. As a general guide, CPD activities should be relevant to the psychologist's area of professional practice and have clear learning aims and objectives that meet the individual's requirements. Registered psychologists are required to develop a learning plan based on a self-assessment of



skills and knowledge, which ascertains areas for development or improvement and enhances life-long learning. Registered psychologists must maintain an up-to-date CPD portfolio that includes: a) a learning plan, as previously described, which also includes desired outcomes, b) how the CPD relates to the psychologist's professional development; and c) all CPD activities undertaken.

The initial period for complying with the requirements of this standard will be from 1 July 2010 until 30 November 2011. Further information on the Psychology Board of Australia please see: <http://www.psychologyboard.gov.au/>.

### **Current focus of the National Executive**

The work of the National Executive in the near term is to continue to pursue the strategic plan that was developed by the past national executive. Related to this, another important recent accomplishment was the development of course approval guidelines, which APAC will use to assess in its course approval process. I would like to thank Dr Greg Dear for his work on these guidelines. These guidelines will ensure the training of forensic psychologists in Australia is comprehensive and contemporary.

The college, led by Associate Professor Andrew Day has also developed four information sheets. These information sheets introduce some useful information and minimum standards for work on offender rehabilitation, risk assessment, writing court reports and assessing mental impairment and fitness. We are in the process of correctly formatting these information sheets and hope to launch them during National Psychology Week. These information sheets emphasise the skill that is required to conduct these activities. They therefore act as a useful advertisement for forensic psychologists. It is likely that these information sheets will be publically available on the APS website where they can be accessed by non-psychologists who may require information on these activities. Once they are finalised we will contact members of the college to inform you of their publication and how to access them.

On the issue of promoting forensic psychology it is important to acknowledge that there has been some tension amongst the different colleges about areas of specialist practice. These debates are longstanding but have been brought into sharp focus though Medicare items becoming available for psychologists and the differential rates of payment for psychologists and clinical psychologists, and then with endorsement through the PBA. It is important that the College of Forensic Psychologists asserts its specialist areas of practice and acknowledges the expertise of other

college's and that these discussions are held in a collegial manner that promote the profession of psychology as a whole.

Another important task being undertaken by the college and its affiliates is the development of ethical guidelines for different aspects of forensic practice. Professor Don Thomson is leading this exercise and we will keep you informed of progress.

On October 14<sup>th</sup> Mr Dominic Doyle was presented with this year's Maconochie Prize. This prize aims to encourage and reward outstanding forensic psychology research by students and is awarded to the student who is judged to have prepared the best publication in a refereed journal based on his/her Honours, Masters or Doctoral thesis. Mr Doyle (soon to be Dr Doyle) was deemed to have completed the best paper: 'Calling the Tune Without the Music: A Psycho-Legal Analysis of Australia's Post-Sentence Legislation', which was published in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. The abstract for this paper is as included later in the newsletter.

I would also like to draw your attention to the 2011 APS Forensic Psychology National Conference: *Diversity and specialism in forensic psychology*, which will be held between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at the Outrigger, Little Hastings Street, Noosa, Queensland. For updates on the conference keep an eye on:

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/cfp/2011-conference/>

Thank you to the organising committee, led by the Chair, Dr Gavan Palk. This is sure to be another fantastic event so please mark you diary and consider submitting an abstract.

Best wishes  
Michael Daffern

# Forensic College Conference, 2011

*The Queensland branch of the APS Forensic College will host The Australian Psychological Society Forensic Psychology National Conference at the 'Outrigger', in Noosa, Queensland, from Thursday August 4 to Saturday August 6, 2011. Noosa is located on the Sunshine Coast approximately 130 kilometres from Brisbane.*

4th — 6th  
August 2011  
"Outrigger"  
Noosa, QLD

The conference organising committee, chaired by Dr Gavan Palk, will call for papers shortly. They will be seeking Individual Research Papers; Poster Presentations and contributions to Symposia.

## Key Note Speakers

Professor Thomas Grisso  
*Director law & Psychiatry University of Massachusetts USA*

Professor Leslie Morey  
*Texas A & M University USA*

Professor Alfred Allan  
*Edith Cowan University, Australia  
National Chair of the College of Forensic Psychologists*

Professor Paul Wilson OAM  
*Chair of Criminology Bond University, Australia*

Professor Don Thompson  
*Deakin University, Australia*

Professor Karen Franklin  
*Alliant International University in San Francisco, California*

## Presentations

The theme for the conference celebrates the diversity as well as specialisations of forensic psychology and therefore the following conference themes are suggested:

- Forensic assessment
- Risk assessment
- Indigenous/multicultural assessment and treatment
- Rehabilitation
- Malingering
- Mental health and crime
- Vehicles and road related crime :  
Hoon driving, road rage, drink driving, car stealing, terrorism & the car
- Ethics in forensic psychology
- Juvenile offending
- Young people and the law
- Adult offending
- Correctional psychology and crime prevention
- Justice, Criminology and Policing
- Family law and Child custody evaluations
- Criminal law
- Victims of Crime
- War crimes
- Expert evidence, jury selection, witness memory
- Competency to stand trial
- Treatment and counselling in the forensic setting
- Personal injury assessment
- Substance abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Violence and risk assessment
- Criminal profiling
- Serial killers
- Serial fire setters

## Member Profile—Dr Georgie O’Donnell (TAS)

Georgie has been practicing as a registered psychologist in Tasmania since 1997. She was the Senior Clinical Psychologist of the statewide Forensic Mental Health Service Tasmania for five years, until she resigned in March 2007 to work full time in private practice. Georgie has seen the Tasmanian system of managing forensic mental health patients move through significant transitions over the past decade, with major changes in resourcing and process. When she commenced working in the public system, there was a small team of mental health professionals based at Risdon Prison that provided services statewide for people with mental health problems that became involved in the criminal justice system. Inpatients were accommodated in the small multi-purpose Risdon Prison Hospital. Since that time services have expanded to include a purpose built forensic mental health secure unit outside of the prison walls (Wilfred Lopes Centre), two community based

forensic mental health teams, and a court liaison service. Now based in the private sector, Georgie specialises in "filling the gaps" by providing psychological assessment and treatment services for forensic and clinical clients that may find it difficult to access mainstream services. She offers bulk billing to increase the accessibility of treatment and provide a better opportunity for community-based risk management over the longer term. Georgie and her Tasmanian colleagues are working on the establishment of the Tasmanian section of the Forensic College, and have recently established a new specialist private practice in central Hobart called "ForensiClinic". The team is regularly requested to provide psychological opinion to the Courts on matters including criminal responsibility and fitness to stand trial. Georgie can be contacted via email: [Georgina.O.FC@gmail.com](mailto:Georgina.O.FC@gmail.com)

## College Endorsed PD Opportunity

### Management of Complex Forensic Cases:

### Clinical Case Formulation, Risk Management & Legally Defensible Report Writing



Presenter: Catherine Creamer. Forensic Psychologist. Visiting Lecturer at Glasgow Caledonian University.

Melbourne: 11—13 April 2011

Brisbane: 18—20 April 2011

The use of *Risk Assessment* instruments has greatly improved the prediction of violence and other harmful behaviours. Risk Assessment alone however can say little about the reasons for why an offender offends or provide guidance for how to best manage 'high risk' individuals. *Risk Formulation* is the process of integrating diverse pieces information into an explanation of 'how' and 'why' a specific

individual offends. A robust Risk Formulation provides a guideline for professionals to manage an individual's likelihood of engaging in future offending behaviour.

This three-day workshop focusses on the skills of *Risk Formulation* and *Management* with complex cases who pose a risk of harm, violence and/or sexual violence. Participants will gain a structure and approach on how to use information to reach individualised risk formulations and risk management plans. Participants will learn a process for writing legally defensible risk formulations.

[www.forensicpsychologycentre.com.au](http://www.forensicpsychologycentre.com.au)

## Psychologists invited for “Best Interests of the Child” research

Professionals practicing in Family and Children's legal contexts are invited to participate in a national survey of opinions of issues relating to 'best interests of the child'. This Charles Sturt University study conducted by Antoinette Harmer and Jane Goodman-Delahunty involves an on-line survey and responses are anonymous.

As court experts, Psychologists have a pivotal role in informing decisions in child and family law. This study is surveying many professional groups including legal practitioners and we need strong representation from Psychologists to complete this research.

The survey is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/bicstudy>  
For further information e-mail [bicstudy.harmer@gmail.com](mailto:bicstudy.harmer@gmail.com)

# Maconachie Prize

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 Prize is named after Alexander Maconochie, the Governor of Norfolk Island Penal Colony in the 1840s who was renowned for his progressive and enlightened approach to corrections and considered the father of parole.

This year's winner is Mr Dominic Doyle, with commendations to Rita Cauchi, Louisa Hackett and Kirin Hillier.

## Abstracts

### Calling the Tune Without the Music: A Psycho-Legal Analysis of Australia's Post-Sentence Legislation

Dominic J. Doyle and James R.P. Ogloff

*Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Monash University and Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare), Australia*

Australian governments have introduced legislation to detain or supervise sex offenders whose sentences have expired but who are still considered to be dangerous. In the enactment of these controversial laws, governments largely overlooked a significant body of empirical knowledge on sexual offending and risk prediction. Consequently, these schemes are based on unexamined assumptions. Accordingly, an evaluation of the compatibility between these assumptions and the available science is warranted.

To this end, the article will submit the central provisions of the legislation to a psycho-legal analysis whereby the assumptions underpinning the laws will be weighed against the empirical evidence. The article reveals that there is considerable disconnect between the laws' assumptions and the existing literature on sexual offending and risk prediction, such that the evidence suggests that the legislation will not achieve its aims in any meaningful and sustainable way. Future criminal justice policy in the area of sex offending needs to be collaboratively developed between policymakers and the relevant scientific communities and experts. It must be founded on cost-effective and empirically defensible approaches based on what we understand, rather than what we fear, about sex offenders

<http://www.atypon-link.com/AAP/doi/abs/10.1375/acri.42.2.179>

### A controlled analysis of professionals' contemporaneous notes of interviews about alleged child abuse.

Rita T. Cauchi, Martine B. Powell and Carolyn H. Hughes Scholes.

*Deakin University, Burwood, Victoria, Australia*

The current study investigated (under optimal conditions) the accuracy and completeness of professionals' contemporaneous written notes of child abuse interviews.

Participants included 107 experienced child abuse investigators who were all trained to adhere to best-practice interview guidelines and who routinely took notes as records of interviews. The interviews documented for this study were read live for 15 min duration, and at a pace of 2.2 words (on average)/s. The professionals' notes of the interviews were analyzed for completeness and accuracy. Key outcome measures were the prevalence and discernability of the questions (i.e., whether the structure of questions was recorded accurately) as well as the child responses.

Despite the omission of 39% of abuse-related details, recording of content details was clearly prioritized over interviewer questions. This was revealed irrespective of the measure of note taking quality or the quality of the interview being recorded. Of the various layout styles employed, scrutiny of interviewer questions was maximized by: (a) using symbols or spacing to delineate questions and responses, (b) capturing the first two words of a question, and (c) using abbreviations.

Although note taking could potentially improve with further research, training and instruction, this form of documentation does not provide full scrutiny of the interview process, even under optimal conditions.

Electronic recording is strongly recommended for all interviews, especially considering global concerns about interviewers' adherence to best-practice interview guidelines. If notes continue to be used as a record of interview, further research and training are urgently warranted to improve note taking competency.

[doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.09.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2009.09.016)

## Abstracts contd.

### Expectancy violation and perceptions of rape victim credibility

Hackett, Louisa; Day, Andrew; Mohr, Philip  
*University of South Australia*

Rape victims have been found to have a heightened risk of secondary victimization in the legal system through biased perceptions of their credibility. In this study, participants observed a video of a rape victim reporting the crime and evaluated her credibility, to establish the influence of victim emotional expressiveness on evaluations of victim credibility.

The nonverbal (eye-contact, crying) and paralinguistic (tone of voice) behaviour of the rape victim was manipulated such that the emotional presentation viewed by observers was either expressive, or not expressive. One hundred and thirty seven participants were randomly allocated to observe a videotape of either an expressive or a non-

expressive victim. Participants' specific expectations about the emotional expressiveness of rape victims in general were also measured.

Results revealed no significant main effect of emotional expressiveness on perceptions of credibility. However, among participants with a strong expectation of emotional expressiveness, a rape victim who was emotionally expressive was perceived to be significantly more credible than a victim who was not emotionally expressive.

It appears to be expectancy violation rather than emotional expressiveness *per se* that biases observers' perceptions of rape victim credibility.

[http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bpsoc/lcp/2008/00000013/00000002/art00012#aff\\_1](http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bpsoc/lcp/2008/00000013/00000002/art00012#aff_1)

### Now *everyone* looks the same: Alcohol intoxication reduces the own-race bias in face recognition.

Kirin F. Hilliar . Richard I. Kemp', Thomas F. Denson

Several factors influence the reliability of eyewitness identification evidence. Typically, recognition for same-race faces is better than for different-race faces (the own-race bias), and alcohol intoxication decreases overall

face recognition accuracy. This research investigated how alcohol intoxication influences the own-race bias. Asian and European participants completed tests of recognition memory for Asian and European faces when either mildly intoxicated (mean breath alcohol concentration of .05) or when sober. Compared to their sober counterparts, intoxicated participants showed a reduced own-race bias. Specifically, alcohol intoxication had a larger negative effect on the recognition of same-race faces compared to different-race

## The Profiler- Future Direction

In 2011, we would like to make "The Profiler" as relevant to college members as possible. We would appreciate submissions, article ideas and relevant photographs. It would be fantastic to have a contribution from every branch appear in every issue.

One particular idea that we wish to follow is to provide a focus on relevant Australian published research. With the vast variety of journals, the difficulty is knowing where Australian research is being published! Please, if you are having research published, or come across some, advise me and we'll include at the very least a link to it and a couple of lines.

Similarly, abstracts of completed student theses are welcomed. Maybe even a run down of student topics to get a feel for what students are attempting around Australia. We welcome relevant submissions from anywhere. No guarantees will be made that we can use your submissions, but we will endeavour to include them.

We would like to produce the next edition in **Feb/March 2011**, so submissions by **mid February** would be appreciated. Submissions can be emailed to me at [cached41@gmail.com](mailto:cached41@gmail.com)

Sam van der Wijngaart, Editor

## Victorian section report

The Victorian section has offered a steady stream of professional development activities. On Wednesday 14th July Associate Professor Kevin Douglas, from Simon Fraser University (Canada), who was visiting Melbourne as an invited speaker for the ICAP, presented a workshop on Mental Disorder and Violence. The workshop was well attended. In the workshop Professor Douglas examined the relationship between mental disorder and violence and then how to draw from clinical information pertaining to psychosis and psychopathy in risk assessment and management formulations. Finally, recent evidence on the effectiveness and efficacy of mental health and psychosocial interventions to reduce violent behaviour amongst persons with psychosis was presented. On Wednesday 11th August Mary Louise Hatch, a Lawyer and Legal Educator with Women's Legal Service Victoria, presented a lecture on Family Violence, Family Law and Child Abuse.

The annual Student research Day was held on 14 October. Students from three universities presented their research. This event is a great opportunity for students in forensic psychology to gain valuable presentation experience, get to know local practitioners and students from other local universities.

The final professional development session for 2010 was on the 11th of November. This was a workshop on 'Working with Perpetrators of Domestic Violence' facilitated by Assoc. Prof. Andrew Day, Deakin University. The workshop examined the role that psychologists have to play in working with perpetrators of violence. It explored how educational and therapeutic responses can be combined with those of the criminal justice system, and focussed on how psychological understandings of aggressive and violent behaviour might be used to develop effective rehabilitation programs.

The AGM for the Victorian Section will be held at University House, within the grounds of Melbourne University on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6PM. Afterwards the annual dinner will be held. For enquiries please contact Dr Belinda Guadagno: [belinda.guadagno@deakin.edu.au](mailto:belinda.guadagno@deakin.edu.au). On the evening The Honourable Justice John Coldrey, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of Victoria, Director of Public Prosecutions for Victoria between 1984 and 1991, former Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Committal Proceedings in 1985, and the Consultative Committee on Police Powers of Investigation between 1985 and 1990, Director, Legal Services for the Central Land Council, Northern Territory between 1982 and 1984, and Judicial Member of the Adult Parole Board will present an after dinner talk. All welcome.

## South Australian Section

The section is exploring the possibility of offering regular group supervision sessions to assist practitioners to meet the college eligibility criteria. The AGM for the South Australian section is scheduled for 10th December from 4.30-5.30 at 3/459 Morphett Street, Adelaide and we will also be discussing CPD and social events for 2011. All members are welcome to attend.

Andrew Day  
Chair SA Section CFP

## Queensland Branch

### Seminar schedule November 2010 – December 2011

Date	Topic	Presenter	Format	Location
3 Dec 2010	Treating internet sex offenders	Prof David Middleton	1 day	Spring Hill
3 Dec 2010	End of year function and AGM Prosecuting evil: the Cambodian genocide trials	Prof Paul Wilson	2 hour	Spring Hill
11 Feb 2011	Sexual offenders – assessment and risk management	Prof Stephen Smallbone	1 day	Spring Hill (TBC)
23 Mar 2011	Dangerous Offenders	Dr Barry Nurcombe	2 hour	Spring Hill
26 Apr 2011	Interviewing children	Prof Martine Powell (TBC)	1 day	Stones Corner (TBC)
8 Jun 2011	How a hospital-based doctor sees Alcohol and Drug problems in Forensic settings	Dr Alex Wodak	2 hour 5.30pm	Spring Hill
4-7 Aug 2011	National Conference of the APS Forensic College	-	3 days	Noosa
19 Oct 2011	Private practice issues for the forensic psych	(TBC)	2 hour	Spring Hill (TBC)
7 Dec 2011	Wilson's Hypotheticals & End of Year party	Prof Paul Wilson	2 hour	Stones Corner