TheMHS is proud to announce its sixth annual Summer Forum

Invitation to Sydney

Sydney in summer is ideal for bringing the family or friends for a holiday before or after the forum, and there is no better place in Sydney in summer than Bondi Beach. The conference hotel has spectacular views over Bondi Beach and is ideally located for an early morning swim or surf or walk, before you attend the Forum. Many local restaurants, cafés and bookshops are within an easy stroll of the conference hotel.

Announcing the 6th TheMHS Summer Forum

**Co-morbidity** between mental disorders, and drug and alcohol use disorders, is well recognised. Yet we have few effective responses. This two-day forum brings together experts from home and abroad to discuss the latest challenges and responses in this area. The speakers will talk on the latest research, updates on best practice in service provision, perspectives on how national and local policies and strategies can make a difference, and personal perspectives on co-morbidity. The program will be of particular interest to mental health managers, service directors, team leaders, clinicians, and consumer and carer advocates.

The focus on the first day will include: recent drug use trends; the increasing use of amphetamines; latest research on cannabis and psychosis; personality disorders and illicit drug use; co-morbidity in young people.

The focus on the second day will shift to look at how mental health services respond to the challenges and give some pointers towards possible solutions. This day will include both plenary presentations and concurrent workshops to increase conference delegates’ opportunities for discussion.

**Co-morbidity: drugs, alcohol, mental health**

Co-morbidity must be taken into account when working with people with mental disorders. The Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being (NSMHW) (1997) showed that there is a considerable degree of co-morbidity in substance use disorders and other mental health disorders. One in four persons with anxiety, affective or substance use disorder also have at least one of the other disorders. One in three of people with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder have a lifetime diagnosis of alcohol use disorder, while 25% have a cannabis use disorder. The prevalence of co-morbidity problems in young people have increased dramatically over recent years. The National Burden of Disease Study showed that the leading causes of disease burden for nine out of ten young males, and eight out of ten young females, were substance use disorders or mental disorders.

Co-morbidity dramatically increases the complexities and costs of assessment and care. The disorders are more acute and severe. There are much greater risks of physical illness, delirium, intoxication, overdose and withdrawal, violence, self-harm and inappropriate sexual behaviours. People with more than one mental disorder often have a poorer treatment response and a worse course of illness over time. One disorder may worsen the symptoms and course of the other, or may reduce the effectiveness of treatment. These factors are having a major effect on the style of service provision in Australia and New Zealand, with more disturbed emergency departments and psychiatric admission wards. Staff do not like the atmosphere, pressures and risks, leading to problems of recruitment, retention and the training of the next generation. Our buildings for providing services have not been designed to cope with these changes.

The Summer Forum seeks to address these issues by asking: What are the causes? Have mental health services simply been dumped with a wider society problem? Is there hope of prevention? Are there examples of successful programs to help people with co-morbidity problems? What skills and knowledge do staff in in-patient psychiatric units need to acquire in order to provide the best care for people with co-morbidity problems? Are there increasing levels of violence and what are the best ways of dealing with this problem?
ONLINE ACCOMMODATION BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE BY VISITING: www.hotelnetwork.com.au

THE HOTEL NETWORK ABN: 86 101 807 755

ACCOMMODATION SECURITY DEPOSIT All rates include GST

Please reserve me a:

- Single room
- Double room
- Twin room sharing with ___________________________
- Smoking
- Non-smoking
- Disability access

Please tick
- at Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi Beach – residential view $148.50 AUD
- at Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi Beach – ocean view $170.50 AUD
- at Bondi Beachside Inn – ocean view $120.00 AUD

Check-In Date / / Check-Out Date / /

No. of Nights

Name ___________________________________________________________________
Organisation _______________________________________________________________
Postal Address _______________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________ State ____________________________
Postcode ______________Country ____________________________________________
Tel _______________________________Fax ________________________________
Email _____________________________________________________________________

Room reservations must be accompanied by a deposit equivalent to one night’s accommodation. You are of course welcome to fully prepay if you wish. In the case of bookings made with your personal credit card your details will be passed on to the hotel to ensure the booking no mark will be deducted. If your organisation is paying by credit card on your behalf, please indicate the amount to debit.

Please complete Method of Payment on next page.

The Hotel Network on behalf of TheMHS has organised special reduced rates at the hotels listed below. Please make all accommodation reservations and amendments through The Hotel Network. Conference hotel accommodation must be booked on this form to obtain the special conference rates. Room reservations for the Hotels must be accompanied by a deposit equivalent to one nights accommodation, or preferably, quote a personal credit card number which we can pass onto the hotel to secure your room. A limited number of rooms have been booked at each hotel so please book early to ensure your first choice is available.

All rates are per room per night only, single/double or twinshare. Rates are in AUS dollars and include GST:

- Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi Conference Venue
  - $148.50 residential view
  - $170.50 ocean view
  - A 4 star hotel and the conference venue situated on Campbell Parade opposite Bondi Beach. Ocean Rooms have fabulous views of the beach and sea. All rooms have a small separate living area, bedroom and bathroom with both shower and bath. Other room features include bath robes, coffee and tea making facilities, 2 TVs, minibar, air-conditioning, hair dryer, iron and board, sofa bed in living room area, in-room safe, and access to internet/email. General hotel facilities include 2 restaurants, 2 bars, laundry/valet service, 2 swimming pools (indoor & outdoor), health club, sauna, spa. Complimentary car parking available for inhouse guests (1 car per room). Full breakfast $15.00 (special rate for conference delegates).

- The Bondi Hotel Adjacent to Conference Venue
  - $110.00 sgl/dbl/twin
  - Very basic 2 1/2 star budget “pub” style hotel accommodation situated on Campbell Parade opposite Bondi Beach and adjacent to the conference venue. In room facilities include bathroom (shower only), TV, telephone, coffee & tea making facilities, fridge, iron & ironing board. Single/double rooms have a double bed. Twin rooms have two single beds but these rooms are very cramped. No minibar, room service or restaurant but plenty of cafes and restaurants on Campbell Parade. Car parking is complimentary but very limited and on a first in basis.
Payment Method:
ABN: 53 621 201 979

Payment Enclosed (please tick your option)
☐ Australian dollar cheque/book draft payable to The Mental Health Services Conference Inc.
☐ Authority to charge my credit card account (Australian Dollar amount)

Credit Card Details:
☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

Card Number ____________________________ Expiry Date _____________/__________ Amount $ _________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________________

The number of places at this Forum are strictly limited, so please book early to guarantee your place.

TheMHS CANCELLATION POLICY: Fees will be refunded in full if TheMHS is notified in writing by the 16 January 2004, 50% of fee will be refunded if notification is received by 2 February 2004. NO REFUND will apply after 2 February, except at the discretion of TheMHS.

Online registration and payments can be made via TheMHS website: www.themhs.org

OR

Return this form with payment to:
TheMHS Conference
PO Box 192
Balmain NSW 2041 Australia

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION: 16 FEBRUARY 2004

Airline Travel

We are pleased to announce that Qantas has been appointed the official airline for this conference. Qantas has set aside a special discount for up to 40% off the full economy airfare (excluding taxes and fees). The Qantas Association Sales telephone number for Australian delegates is: TOLL FREE 131 131. Additional information about flights and prices is available to international delegates on their local Qantas office for the best available fare of travel.
FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2004

9.00am
Co-morbidity: How governments tackle the problems – Dermot Casey
Discussants – Leonie Manns, Keith Evans

10.30am
T/break

11.00am – Concurrent Workshops
1. Amanda Baker – The Comorbidity Roundabout & Stepped Care
2. Ron Diamond – Violence and Borderline Personality Disorder
3. Doug Holmes & Paula Hanlon – Personal perspectives on Recovery from co-morbidity issues
4. Roger Gurr & Adam Winstock – Managing for system change

1.00pm
Lunch

2.00pm
Prescribing medication for people who abuse drugs – Ron Diamond

3.00pm
T/break

3.30pm
Bringing it all together – Panel of speakers from the forum

4.30pm
Close

TheMHS - The learning network for improving mental health services in Australasia

TheMHS is an independent education, service development and networking organisation. TheMHS mission is to:

1. Recognise and promote quality collaborative research, practice, policy-making and education
2. Promote active involvement and inclusion of all mental health stakeholders
3. Advocate and promote leadership in the mental health field

CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION:
16 FEBRUARY 2004

On-site registration may be available, depending upon numbers – please check availability with TheMHS office before the commencement of the Summer Forum.

REGISTRATION
The number of places at this Forum is strictly limited, so please book early to guarantee your place.

Please check website for further details about the Summer Forum.

Contact: TheMHS Conference
PO Box 192 Balmain NSW 2041. Australia
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Website: www.themhs.org