

SPEAKERS AT TheMHS SUMMER FORUM 2004

- Amanda Baker, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Senior Lecturer, Centre for Mental Health Studies, University of Newcastle, Newcastle, NSW
- Dermot Casey, Assistant Secretary, Health Priorities & Suicide Prevention Branch, Australian Dept of Health & Ageing, Canberra, ACT
- Mark Dadds, Professor, School of Psychology, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- Paul Dillon, Information Manager, National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW
- Ronald Diamond, Professor of Psychiatry and Medical Director, Mental Health Centre of Dane County, Madison, WI, USA
- Roger Gurr, Clinical Director, Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, Liverpool & Fairfield Mental Health Service, Sydney, NSW
- Paula Hanlon, Consumer Advocate, Ryde Mental Health Services, Sydney, NSW
- Douglas Holmes, Executive Officer, NSW Consumer Advisory Group, Sydney, NSW
- David Kavanagh,
- Leonie Manns, Consumer Activist and Advocate, Sydney, NSW
- Paul Mullen, Professor, Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health, Melbourne
- George Patton, Professor, Centre for Adolescent Health, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, VIC
- Ian Webster AO, Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, University of NSW; Chair, Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation; National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention

AMANDA BAKER

Workshop Title: The Comorbidity Roundabout and Stepped Care

This workshop will present client's experience of obtaining treatment for comorbid mental health and alcohol and other drug problems as like being "stuck on a roundabout". The workshop will focus on how to get people off the roundabout and into treatment, suggesting a stepped care approach that clinicians could adapt flexibly to their own settings.

Brief biography: Dr Amanda Baker

Dr Amanda Baker is a Senior Clinical Psychologist who has practiced in both mental health and alcohol and other drug treatment settings in the United Kingdom and Australia. Since taking her position as Senior Lecturer at the University of Newcastle in 1995, Dr Baker has successfully initiated and developed a Graduate Certificate, Master and Masters (Hons) of Health Science (Drug and Alcohol Studies), via distance learning mode. She was awarded a National Teaching Grant in 1997, together with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction, for the project titled "Clinical Skills Training: Effective Approaches to Alcohol and Other Drug Problems" and was appointed by the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee as Specialist Advisor to the Accreditation Committee of the NSW Institute of Psychiatry regarding postgraduate mental health courses. During the last few years significant committee work has involved: membership of: the Expert Committee of the National Comorbidity Workshop; the NSW Psychostimulant Strategy Steering Group; the Australian Methamphetamine Research Forum Technical Working Group; and the NSW Allied Health Workers Advisory Committee. Dr Baker is on the Executive of the Editorial Board of the Drug and Alcohol Review and is its Book Review Editor. In 2002 she was a member of the successful tender group awarded by the Australian National Council on Drugs for Rural and Regional Comorbidity Workshops. She has been a Chief Investigator on numerous competitive national grants, including four NHMRC grants, and has published over 40 articles. In 2003 Dr Baker commenced a five year NHMRC Career Development Award to further develop evidence-based practice in clinical settings and to progress further randomised controlled trials. Also in 2003, she was the Hunter Medical Research Institute's "Young Medical Researcher of the Year". She is the chief editor of National Drug Strategy Monograph 32: "Models of intervention and care for psychostimulant users, 2nd edition" (2003) and the chief author of the clinical manual published by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, "A brief cognitive behavioural intervention for regular amphetamine users" (2003). In 2003 she was included on the roster of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the area of treatment and rehabilitation. She has been invited to address numerous national conferences and has recently been invited to present at two international conferences (European Association for Cognitive-Behaviour Therapy, Manchester, 2004 and International Harm Reduction Conference, Melbourne, 2005).

IAN WEBSTER

Title of paper: What's in a diagnosis?

The fact that co-existing mental health and substance use problems are now a major preoccupation of consumer groups, professional bodies and government, does two things. First, it gives hope that the way we construct these essential aspects of being human will be re-thought, and second, that it demonstrates that specialism creates its own inequities which trap many people in their impoverished lives.

The complexities of approach and the service arrangements need to be explored at conceptual, clinical and organisational levels. These in turn carry profound implications for health and human services, community organisations and above all the organisation of government programmes and funding.

Of course, we should start with prevention but this will lag so long at the needs of affected people are ignored.

Brief Biography: Ian Webster

Ian W Webster AO is a physician and Emeritus Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine of the University of New South Wales.

He is chair of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation, National Advisory Council on Suicide Prevention, the NSW Expert Advisory Group on Drugs and the Board of the Ted Noffs Foundation.

He has held appointments as physician at Liverpool Hospital, St George and Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals and was Director of Population Health in the South Western Sydney Area Health Service. He is currently a Visiting Medical Officer in the Drug Health Services in the South Western Sydney Area Health Service.

Since 1976 he has been honorary visiting physician to St Vincent do Paul Society's Matthew Talbot Hostel for the Homeless in Woolloomooloo.

JANICE WILSON

Title of paper: The Challenges – New Zealand Perspective

For the past 15 years or so the services for people with alcohol and other drug addictions have been organized administratively within the confines of mental health services. On one level, that is in policy and service development this has allowed a framework whereby alcohol and other drug services AND mental health services can work closely together to address the need of consumers or clients. Despite this, the influences from these service's quite different histories and philosophical approaches have prevailed, and have posed barriers to true collaboration and indeed integration of service approaches to the individual and their family.

This paper will outline the development and organisation of alcohol and other drug services in New Zealand and the approach taken over the part 10 years to comorbidity with mental illness. It will outline the challenges and discuss proposed strategies in the pathway ahead, including incorporating approaches to problem gambling.

Brief Biography: Janice Wilson

Dr Janice Wilson was appointed to the position of Deputy Director-General, Mental Health, Ministry of Health from 1 July 2000. In this position she is responsible for assisting Government with the development of mental health (including alcohol and other drugs) services policy and for the implementation of the national mental health strategy. She joined the Department of Health in March 1993 as Director of Mental Health, and was also appointed to the position of Chief Psychiatric Advisor in July 1993, later called Chief Advisor, Mental Health in 1997.

A psychiatrist and Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Janice held the honorary position of President from May 1997 until June 1999.

Prior to joining the Ministry, Janice was Manager of Mental Health Services for the Wellington Area Health Board. Janice also holds a Diploma in Health Administration and a certificate of Health Economics from Victoria University. She has worked both clinically as a psychiatrist and as a Manager in Mental Health Services.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS: RONALD DIAMOND

Books

Diamond RJ Instant Psychopharmacology: A Guide for the Nonmedical Mental Health Professional
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