For staff and clients violence and aggression is an all too frequent occurrence in mental health settings. Why is this the case and what can we do about it? This is the focus of this two day Summer Forum.

The first day will focus on the debates over the relationship between mental disorder and violence. There is a "research based" policy of "not do anything to increase your chances of reducing the incidence of violence" (Ballas, 2001).

What research is available and how can it assist government policy in the mental health system and improve the legal, medical and social aspects of violence and aggression?

The second day will focus on practical solutions. Can aggression and violence be predicted and prevented? Just how reliable is the ability of mental health professionals to predict aggression? How reliable is the variation between 33% and 82% accuracy. On the other hand, is the current approach to assessing aggression merely a reflection of an increasing anxiety of living conditions today?

In the past, emphasis has been placed on skills to physically manage aggressive and violent situations. However, it is now becoming clear that good work practices, mental health services can facilitate the recognition, prevention and management of violence and aggression.

Come to this Forum to learn about the most up-to-date evidence on managing aggression and violence in mental health services.

The two day Forum will highlight experiences and learn from international and national experts.

Come to this Forum to learn about the most up-to-date evidence on mental health services.

Thursday 23 February 2006 9.30 am - 5.30 pm Speakers on Thursday include:

Professor Paul Mathis: Assessing and violent offenders: introduction to the NSW Report
Professor Kevin Gleave: Recognising and understanding violent behaviour in mental health and forensic settings
Professor Darren Chappell: Violence and the mental health workforce – from recent Traxpley surveys.
Joanne Baker: Trends in assaults in the NSW population
Jeffry Daniels, Daniel Webster, Meryn Love: Managing aggression and violence in psychosis: a research study

Friday 24 February 2006 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Speakers on Friday will include:

Professor Kevin Gleave: Preventing, reducing and managing violence and aggression in health care and organisational settings
Robert Ling, Clinical Nurse Specialist: Violence in care settings: a review of state and national policies
Alex McIvor, President: Australian College of Mental Health Nurses

Friday 24 February 2006: 2.30 pm - 5.00 pm Special presentation by Professor Kevin Gleave: An introduction to the concept of "defensive aggression".

The Hotel Network on behalf of THEMHS has organised special reduced rates at the hotels listed below. Please do not make any accommodation reservations and prepayments through the Hotel Network. Hotel accommodation must be booked on this form to secure your accommodation. This form must be completed and returned to the Hotel Network. The Hotel Network must obtain this form before the conference begins or the booking will not be guaranteed. We cannot guarantee the accommodation for which you have booked to the hotel at this time to ensure your room is available. All rates are per person per night. Rates quoted are in AUD and inclusive of GST. To pass onto the hotel to secure your room. You are of course welcome to fully prepay your accommodation. However, transfer of accommodation bookings to another person will be NOT accepted and fees refunded less a $55.00 administration fee.

If you have any further accommodation requirements please contact the Hotel Network.

NOTE: As standard policy hotels require a credit card or cash bond to be presented on arrival to cover any additional charges that may occur during your stay, even if your accommodation has been fully prepaid.
**Speakers**

**Keynotes**

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Kevin Gournay works at Institute of Psychiatry, Mental Health Centre, University of London and is a Chartered Psychologist and a Registered Nurse. He was an author of the report "The therapeutic management of violence in mental health care", prepared for the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting. His research involvement includes OIE, violence, suicide, schizophrenia, medication, epidemiology and primary care. He undertakes policy work for the UK Department of Health, chairing a NICE panel on the management of violence and being an expert witness on PTSD and violence and terrorism by people with a mental illness. He has worked for the UK Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights on the Deaths in Custody report.

**Invited Speakers Include:**

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- **Jo-Ann Berends:** Daniel Nicholls, Mervyn Love, Jean Kepel, Questor Law, Austin Hospital, Melbourne, VIC
- **David Chaplow:** Director of Mental Health, Mental Health Directors, Ministry of Health, NZ
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**CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION:**

17 February 2006

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Cancellation policy – see registration form

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**PRIVACY STATEMENT**

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

Understanding, Preventing and Managing Aggression in Violence in Mental Health Services

**SPEAKERS**

**Keynotes**

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