

## Time to Listen, Time to Act

### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

---

#### **Her Excellency Professor Marie R Bashir AC CVO**

Professor Marie Bashir was born in Narrandera, New South Wales and is a medical graduate of the University of Sydney, a former medical resident officer of St Vincent's Hospital and of The Children's Hospital. She is a Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.



After completion of her post graduate studies in psychiatry, she was appointed to establish the Rivendell Child, Adolescent and Family Service to provide comprehensive specialist consultative services for young people with emotional and psychiatric problems. Her key interests have included child and adolescent depression, mental health issues affecting refugee and immigrant children, juvenile justice and Aboriginal health.

In 1987, she was appointed Director of the Community Health Services in the Central Sydney Area which enabled closer access to primary health care links with an emphasis on early childhood services, migrant and indigenous health, the health needs of elderly people, and communicable illness. Health promotion and health education strategies through a population health model were also key responsibilities.

In 1993, she was appointed Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney, and in 1994 the Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Central Sydney Area. This was a time of major reform in mental health service delivery, which contributed to substantial change in the provision of public sector mental health services.

Professor Bashir served on the Examinations Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists and also on the Regional Issues Committee. She has established professional links with psychiatry departments in South East Asia, enabling educational exchange and placement of Asian colleagues for postgraduate experience in University of Sydney teaching hospital facilities. She has developed collaborative teaching programs between colleagues in Vietnam and Australian psychiatrists, and also with medical and nursing colleagues in Thailand.

Having had a special interest over many years in indigenous health, Professor Bashir has travelled extensively to visit remote communities in Central Australia, the Kimberley and Arnhem Land to gain a closer understanding of issues of

culture and history which impact significantly on health. In 1995, in a partnership with the Aboriginal Medical Service, Redfern, she established the Aboriginal Mental Health Unit, which provides regular clinics and counselling at both the Aboriginal Medical Service in Sydney and mainstream centres. Links to some indigenous rural communities have also been developed through the availability of Telemedicine technology.

She was appointed by the Hon Craig Knowles MP, Minister for Health, to chair the Implementation Group on Mental Health to oversee the development of further mental health services in New South Wales as part of the overall health reform process.

In March 2001, Professor Bashir was appointed Governor of New South Wales.

Her awards include Mother of the Year in 1971, and in 1988 she was appointed an Officer, and in 2001 a Companion in the Order of Australia. She was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003.

In 2003 Professor Bashir received the Mental Health Princess Award, awarded by HRH Princess Galyani Vadhana of Thailand, for contribution to collaborative Mental Health programs between Australia and Thailand.

In 2004 she was made an Honorary Member of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and also elected as one of Australia's Living National Treasures. In addition, in March she received The Writers' Council Award in Beirut, Lebanon, and was invested as a Commander of the Order of the Cedars by His Excellency General Emile Lahoud, President of the Republic of Lebanon.

In 2006 she was invested by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO). Her Excellency also received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Club of Sydney, and was made an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE).

In 2007 Her Excellency was elected an Honorary Member of the New South Wales Masonic Club, and of The Australian Medical Association. She was also inducted as an Honorary Life Member of the Master Plumbers and Mechanical Contractors' Association of New South Wales, and presented with an Honorary Contractor Licence for Plumbing, Draining and Gasfitting, issued by the New South Wales Office of Fair Trading. In 2007 Her Excellency also was the recipient of an Award for Notable Vocational Service from the Rotary Club of Sydney, and The Women's College Alumnae Award from The University of Sydney. On 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007 she was elected the 17<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of The University of Sydney.

Professor Bashir is married to Sir Nicholas Shehadie. They have two daughters and a son, and six grandchildren.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and acting Race Discrimination Commissioner

**Mr Tom Calma**

Tom Calma – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner and acting Race Discrimination Commissioner; he is an Aboriginal elder from the Kungarakan tribal group and a member of the Iwaidja tribal group whose traditional lands are south west of Darwin and on the Coburg Peninsula in Northern Territory, respectively.

He has been involved in Indigenous affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level and worked in the public sector for over 30 years.

Mr Calma has broad experience in public administration, particularly in Indigenous education programs and in developing employment and training programs for Indigenous people from both a national policy and program perspective. Previously he managed the Community Development and Education Branch at Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) where he worked with remote Indigenous communities to implement community-based and driven empowerment and participation programs; he was Senior Adviser Indigenous Affairs to the Minister of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs; he was a senior Australian diplomat in India and Vietnam representing Australia’s interests in education and training.

In the early 1980s, Mr Calma and Indigenous colleagues established the Aboriginal Task Force (ATF) at the Darwin Community College (which later became the Darwin Institute of Technology ), which provided second chance education programs for Indigenous people. He became a senior lecturer and head of the ATF for six years.

Mr Calma has also been appointed as acting Race Discrimination Commissioner annually since July 2004.

Commissioner Calma is a White Ribbon Day Ambassador for 2005 and 2006. White Ribbon Day is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Commissioner Calma is also a national patron of Wakakirri National Story Festival.



## **Ian Boyson**

Ian Boyson is currently Manager of the Performance and Stakeholder Management Section in Mental Health Branch in the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA). Ian has been with Mental Health Branch since May 2007 and was involved with the roll-out of the second round of the Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) Program. He has worked in FaHCSIA and its predecessor departments since 1996 and during that time has managed policy and programs related to Youth affairs, Indigenous Affairs, Housing and Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure.

---

## **Tom Brideson**

He is the Statewide Coordinator for the Aboriginal Mental Health Workforce Program in NSW; actively involved with the Djirruwang Program since its inception in 1993 (Director 2002 – 2004); several years worked as an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker. Tom was the Assistant Director of the Social Health Section, Commonwealth Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Canberra. He holds a Diploma in Health Science (Mental Health) and a Bachelor of Arts (Welfare Studies).

---

## **Dea Delaney Theile**

Born at the Burnt Bridge Mission at Kempsey, NSW, Ms Delaney Thiele was appointed Chief Executive Office of NACCHO in February, 2003.

Ms Delaney Thiele, who holds a post graduate qualification in health management from the University of New England, Armidale, is married with three children and moved to the national capital in 1998 to take up a policy analyst position with NACCHO.

She has, however, worked in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector for much of her adult life and has served on a number of boards at the local, state and national levels. These include Chairperson of the Murawina Mt Druitt Aboriginal Childcare Centre in Sydney; CEO of the Daruk Aboriginal Medical Service in NSW; membership of the NSW Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AH&MRC) and NACCHO Board (including a period as Treasurer) and Chairperson of Kamuka Building Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation.

Ms Delaney Thiele has also served as a Board Member of the Children's Hospital at Westmead and the Western Sydney Area Health Service.

---

## **Michael Dudley**

Dr Michael Dudley is Senior Staff Specialist in Psychiatry at Prince of Wales and Sydney Children's Hospitals, and is Conjoint Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at University of New South Wales. Michael has long-standing clinical, public health and research interest in suicide, self-harm and depression in young people, and he chairs Suicide Prevention Australia (SPA).

He is co-chief investigator in NHMRC funded (2004-2008) case-control studies of risk and protective factors for suicide and attempted suicide in metropolitan and rural young people aged 18-34 years. He has co-investigated organisational and community responses to suicide prevention as part of the National Suicide Prevention Strategy. For SPA, he initiated and co-produced the "Closing the Gap" report (a conversation between researchers and practitioners, with recommendations concerning the National Suicide Prevention Strategy); and jointly established the SPA LiFE awards for outstanding contributions in suicide prevention.

He is also involved in refugee mental health clinical work, teaching, research and advocacy and is co-editing a book on Mental Health and Human Rights for Oxford University Press. Dr Dudley has also been an outspoken advocate against detention of refugees in Australia.

---

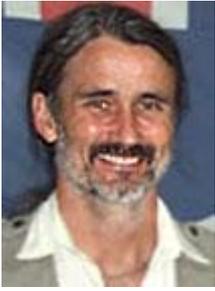
## **Uncle George Fisher**

Uncle George is a Wiradjuri / Gadigal Elder from the Greenacre area and is well known for his once Koori radio program, George and George. He was a band member of the Opals, one of the first Indigenous bands ever established in this country, made up of many members of his family, touring with the likes of Jimmy Little and a host of very noted Indigenous entertainers of the 1960s to the 1980s. He also fronted his own band Mr George and made a number of records and albums, he is still one of the most talented Indigenous guitar players today and was the main supporting act for David Cassidy when he toured Australia 1973 and also the Bee Gees and was the resident band at the Musicians Club for a considerable time.

---

## **Vanessa Harris**

Vanessa Harris is from Darwin and comes from a well known local family active in health and community activities. Her family is originally from the Alyawarre people of Alpururulam, also know as Lake Nash, through her maternal grandmother. She has a Health Science degree with a management major.



## **Ernest Hunter**

Professor in Public Health University of Queensland, North Queensland Clinical School. He has worked for the last two decades in remote Indigenous populations across northern Australia and is Regional Psychiatrist with Queensland Health and Adjunct Professor in the School of Population Health, University of Queensland based in Cairns.

---

## **Len Kanowski**

Deputy Program Director  
Mental Health First Aid Training and Research Program ORYGEN Research Centre, Dept of Psychiatry, University of Melbourne

---

## **Ineke Krom**

Senior Research Officer  
Australian Indigenous Health *InfoNet*, Perth, West Australia

---

## **Moe Milne**

Moe Milne began her health career in psychopaedic nursing. After the birth of her first son, she began her general nursing course in Nelson. She did not complete the course but opted instead to register as a psychiatric nurse in 1974.

Moe worked as a psychiatric nurse at Ngawhatu, Kingseat, Royal Dundee Liff hospital and Carrington. As a new staff nurse in 1974, Moe was part of a team that began nursing in the community as domestic nurses for mental health consumers. She later also provided community nursing services to consumers of addiction services. In Scotland, Moe was in charge of a four ward unit which included an “experimental” unit using deep sleep therapy. At Carrington, Moe worked as afternoon charge nurse in admissions, Addictions and the new forensic services. She returned home to Matawaia after the birth of her fourth child, then had two more children. She was passionate about ensuring that her children would be nurtured in Te Reo Maori me ona tikanga and that they would know their land, relations and marae.

When her youngest child was six months old, Moe enrolled into teacher training so that she could be available for kura Maori. All her children are fluent in their Maori language and tikanga as are her four mokopuna.

After six years of teaching, Moe was approached by the kaumatua of the north to go back into health to “stop our people from dying”.

Moe’s passion for improving Maori health meant she worked as one of the first senior Maori managers at Northland area health Board. After the health changes,

She then took up a position of Locality Manager for the Northern regional health authority.

In 1995 Moe became the Kaiwhakahaere (Maori Manager) for the Health and Disability Commissioner. Her role primarily was to promote and protect the rights of Maori consumers of Health and Disability services.

At the end of 2000, Moe left the HDC to start her own business. This was the realization of a dream to become a resource person to iwi Maori and to help them realize their dreams for wellness. She provides training, supervision, facilitation and mediation for many individuals and groups.

The Treaty of Waitangi and the principal of Rangatiratanga is important to Moe. She works tirelessly to ensure Maori have access to appropriate cultural services of the highest quality.

-----



**Coralie Ober**

Research Fellow, Queensland Alcohol & Drug Research and Education Centre (QADREC) University of Queensland in the School of Population Health. Coralie in partnership with CDAS developed and validated the Indigenous Risk Impact Screen (IRIS) and Brief Intervention that measures alcohol and drugs and mental health. She has wide professional experience: registered nurse, teaching/lecturing, welfare, Guidance Officer in secondary schools, Queensland Corrective Services. It was while she worked with the issue of deaths in custody, that she began to explore trans-generational trauma and its ramifications on Indigenous people today, leading to her interest and post graduate studies in Group Process in the Treatment of Trauma and Crisis in Indigenous Communities.

Community Development/Capacity Building in Indigenous communities is the basis of her work with WHO in the Global Project on Indigenous Peoples and Substance Use. She is Co Deputy Chair of the National Indigenous Alcohol and Drug Committee (NIDAC); a member on the Board of the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI) at Curtin University Perth and a member of the Indigenous Reference Group for the Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia(ADCA). Currently she is working on developing and implementing workforce development/training and capacity building for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Alcohol and Drug Community Workers in Queensland - part of the Ministerial Council on Drugs & the Inter-Governmental Committee on Drugs Workforce Agenda.

-----

**Neil Phillips**

Neil is a community psychiatrist who works in NSW. He has a particular interest in Indigenous mental health and, over the last twenty years, has been involved in both mainstream and Aboriginal Medical Service developments. He was the founding chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander Mental Health Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.



**Lesley Podesta**

First Assistant Secretary of the Australian Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH). OATSIH is responsible for financing primary health care and intervention services for Indigenous people across Australia. She has a particular interest in family centred care of chronic disease, early childhood interventions, better population health interventions and improving clinical and management standards in primary care.

She has worked in the health portfolio for nearly ten years and was previously the Assistant Secretary, Residential Programs Branch in Aged Care and then Assistant Secretary, Biosecurity and Disease Control in Population Health Division. Here she was responsible for leading Australia’s emergency response the Bali bombings, South East Asian tsunami, the development of bioterrorist health response and pandemic influenza planning. Before starting in Health she worked for Employment, Education and Training portfolios in both State and Commonwealth governments.

She was a Foundation Board Member of the Youth Research Centre, University of Melbourne; a member of the Council of Victoria University and a board member of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, ANU.



**Russell Roberts**

Director of mental health services, Greater Western Area Health Service

&

**Tuana Sanders**

Acting Regional Manager, Remote & Mitchell Cluster Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Service Greater Western Area Health



## **Alan Rosen**

He is Director of Clinical Services, Royal North Shore Hospital and Community Mental Health Services, Associate Professor School of Public Health University of Wollongong, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychological Medicine, University of Sydney; involved in community mental health services, research and education for over 25 years, nationally and internationally; regular visiting psychiatrist to Broken Hill and Wilcannia communities (NSW) for over 20 years.

~~~~~

## **Nathan Scott.**

Nathan is a very talented didjeridu player who completed his diploma in music at Eora in 2006.

He also toured France in the same year with an Indigenous dance group from the Northern Territory and has been tutored in didj playing by William Barton, one of this country's most noted didj players. He has also performed at Yabun and Survival day events and has done many welcome to country sessions in and around Sydney, He is also the son of Lettie Scott ,a very well know Indigenous visual artist from the Anmatyerre People of Central Australia.

~~~~~

## **Barbara Wieland**

General Manager of Recovery and Rehabilitation  
Mental Health Services  
Central Northern Adelaide Health Service (CNAHS)

&

## **Zell Dodd**

Executive Director Aboriginal and Torrens Strait Islanders for CNAHS

&

## **Jo Wilmott**

Aboriginal Elder

&

## **Anthea Kreig**

Director of the Northern Mental Health Service Aboriginal Team