
Panellist bios

Listen in: **Eavesdrop on a 'real' case consultation**

“Listen in” as the esteemed practitioners from the Centenary of Anzac Centre’s Practitioner Support Service discuss two challenging case presentations.

The activity is delivered as part of the Mental Health Professionals’ Network’s Working Better Together Conference 2019.

Activity times:

10.30 am – 11.00 am, Tuesday 28 May, 2019

3.00 pm – 3.30 pm, Tuesday 28 May, 2019

Panel:



Dr John Cooper (Facilitator)

John Cooper is a Psychiatrist, who provides consultation to practitioners regarding specialist psychiatry and pharmacotherapy issues.

At Phoenix Australia, John provides psychiatry expertise across policy and service development, training and education, and research. He has particular expertise in veteran mental health, assessment, pharmacotherapy, and service development. John maintains an active private practice, where he specialises in the assessment and treatment of posttraumatic mental health problems, and he also works in a regional youth mental health service working with young people who have experienced trauma. John has held senior clinical and advisory positions in posttraumatic mental health at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital and the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).



Dr Richard Bonwick

Richard Bonwick is a Psychiatrist who provides consultation to practitioners regarding specialist psychiatry issues, particularly those related to older veterans. Richard has worked as Consultant Psychiatrist to the Older Veterans' Psychiatry Program at the Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Victoria, since 1995 until 2013, when he was appointed Medical Director of The Melbourne Clinic. Since 1995 he has consulted in private practice with a special interest in treating ageing veterans suffering PTSD and its comorbidities. Richard has spoken and written nationally and internationally on a variety of topics in old age psychiatry, and authored a chapter for a text, "Psychosis in the Elderly". His work treating PTSD in elderly war veterans was featured in a documentary on ABC TV's "Compass" in 2006 ("Walking Wounded"). Richard is an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne and has been involved in curriculum development and teaching for the MBBS, and more recently the MD course. He is a current member and past Chair of the Victorian branch of RANZCP FPOA (Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age), and a member of the RANZCP FPOA binational executive from 1999-2011. He is a current member of the RANZCP Military and Veterans' Mental Health Network.



Ms Jane Pool

Jane Pool is a Clinical and Accredited Mental Health Social Worker. She provides consultation to practitioners about a range of veteran mental health and specialist family issues. Jane has 27 years' experience in the field of mental health, trauma, and working with families. She has held numerous senior positions within VVCS and non government organisations providing mental health services. Jane has a passion for working with veterans and military personnel and their families. She has worked as a VVCS centre-based counsellor for seven years and specialised in working with sons and daughters of Vietnam veterans. Other roles include acting as Deputy Director of South Australia and National Group Program Co-ordinator. Upon leaving VVCS to begin private practice Jane was contracted by VVCS to provide outreach counselling and group programs. VVCS clients remain the majority of Jane's clients within her Adelaide Hills based private practice. Jane also has extensive experience working with families, especially adolescents. She was the mental health clinician in Doctor On Campus program at Victor Harbor High School which won a South Australian Mental Health Award for Innovation in 2015. Jane is a clinician committed to

providing effective, efficient, evidenced-based clinical interventions to the clients with whom she works.



Dr Phil Parker

Phil Parker is a General Practitioner who provides consultation to practitioners about a wide range of veterans' health care issues. Phil is a Brisbane-based GP with extensive expertise in veteran health. He served with the Australian Army for 28 years, which included roles in Signals, Infantry, and Medical Corps. In 2012 he deployed to Afghanistan as the Task Force Surgeon. This role involved operational coordination of coalition health forces in Uruzgan, mentoring of senior Afghan Army, Police, and civilian health staff, and treatment of trauma patients. Phil has also held senior medical officer roles within Army, with significant involvement in capability and policy development. As a community general practitioner Phil has a special interest in veteran health. He is also actively involved in providing advice and education to other practitioners about PTSD management. Phil is GP Ambassador for Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation, and also serves as a medical educator with General Practice Training Queensland.



Dr Geoff Thompson

Geoff Thompson is a Psychiatrist who draws on his extensive experience in treating veterans to provide consultation to practitioners regarding specialist psychiatry issues. Geoff's association with veteran mental health includes 15 years as psychiatrist and team leader of a multidisciplinary inpatient team at Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, Victoria, nine of those years as Clinical Leader/Director of Inpatient Services. This has given him a wealth of experience, especially with complex presentations. Geoff also has an active private practice, treating a wide range of trauma-related mental health presentations, general adult psychiatric conditions, and delivering psychodynamically based psychotherapy. He also holds the position of Associate Dean Professionalism (Staff Liaison) at Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University.



Ms Kristi Heffernan

Kristi Heffernan is a Clinical Psychologist and currently works for Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health and in private practice in Sydney. She also continues to serve in the Australian Army as a Psychologist (reserves). Kristi has many years' experience working as a Military and Defence psychologist and has provided clinical assessment and treatment to current and ex-serving veterans, emergency services personnel and other community-based clients. She deployed on several occasions with the Australian Defence Force to Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor and the Solomon Islands. She has provided prevention, early intervention and clinical treatments to those exposed to trauma and other workplace and interpersonal stressors, and recently completed her PhD investigating the cognitive mechanisms military personnel use to adjust to military deployments.