

Grief, Loss, Older People and Mental Health: An interdisciplinary response



Dr Cathy Andronis

General Practitioner, Vic

Dr Cathy Andronis is a GP in inner Melbourne. She is also a family therapist with clinical membership of the Australian Association of Family Therapy.

Cathy is a tutor at Monash and Deakin universities and GP lead (Deakin) at Eastern Health where she teaches medical students about the patient-centred approach in consultations with patients.

Cathy is a member of the Victorian liaison sub-committee for the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners – Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RACGP-RANCZP). She is also a Focus Psychological Skills (FPS) trainer with the Australian Society of Psychological Medicine and RACGP, and is the RACGP representative to Mental Health Australia.



Mr Christopher Hall

Psychologist, Vic
MA, GradDipAdol&ChPsych,
BEd, CertIVTAE, MAPS, MACE,
FAIM

For the past 23 years, Christopher Hall has held the position of Director and Chief

Executive Officer of the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement.

He is a psychologist specialising in grief and bereavement. Christopher was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling (ADEC) in 2015. In 2007, he was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and served as chair from 2010-2013. He currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the work group. In 2018, Christopher received the ADEC Service Award for his commitment to the field and advancing the study of dying, death and bereavement.

Christopher is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management and an Honorary Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Melbourne. He serves as the Editor of the journal *Grief Matters: The Australian Journal of Grief and Bereavement* and is a former Associate Editor of *Death Studies*. In 2010, Christopher was appointed to the Coronial Council of Victoria.



Dr Rod McKay

Psychiatrist, NSW

Dr Rod McKay is a psychiatrist with a passion for improving mental health practice and the quality of life for people with mental illness of all ages.

Based in NSW, Rod is Director of Psychiatry and Mental Health Programs at the Health Education and Training Institute (HETI). He is also clinical advisor to the Older People's Mental Health Policy Unit; Chair of the National Mental Health Information Development Expert Advisory Group; and a clinician involved in fly in/fly out work in Far Western NSW.



Facilitator:
Dr Ebonney van der Meer
General Practitioner, Qld

Ebonney is a general practice and rural generalist registrar with specialisation in mental health working as a senior medical officer in Cooktown, Queensland.

She is an active member of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, representing doctors in training on the organisation's management and conference committees and holds an adjunct lecturer position with James Cook University.

Ebboney has recently undertaken research in the models of service delivery for mental health in primary care settings across rural and remote locations and amongst local Indigenous populations. She is also a trained physiotherapist and a proud mum of two.