



Speaker biographies:

Suicide Prevention and Safety Planning for the Veteran Community



Professor Barbara Stanley

Dr Stanley is a Professor of Medical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University and Director of the Suicide

Prevention Training, Implementation and Evaluation (SP-TIE) program in the Centre for Practice Innovations at New York State Psychiatric Institute. She is also a Research Scientist in the Division of Molecular Imaging and Neuropathology at New York State Psychiatric Institute where she is the Principal Investigator/co-Investigator on several NIMH, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Her research focuses on all aspects of suicidal behaviour, non-suicidal self-injury and borderline personality disorder including assessment and intervention with suicidal individuals, clinical factors relevant to suicidal behaviour and self-injury and neurobiological and biobehavioral influences on suicidal behaviour.

With her colleague, Dr Gregory Brown, she developed the Safety Planning Intervention that is used throughout the US Department of Veterans Affairs and on crisis hotlines across the United States. Dr. Stanley served as a consultant to NIMH in developing guidelines to investigators considering including suicidal patients in treatment trials and was appointed to the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on IRBs and Social Science Research. She was a standing member of the NIH Centre for Scientific Research Adult

Psychopathology and Disorders of Aging Study Section.

She is on the Executive Committee of the International Academy of Suicide Research and editor in chief of their official journal, the Archives of Suicide Research. She also serves on several journal editorial boards. She is the author of over two hundred publications, several edited and co-written books and has received several awards for her research and leadership in the field.



Dr Jenny Firman

Dr Jenny Firman completed her medical degree at University of Melbourne and while a student joined the Royal Australian Navy.

Over the next 22 years Jenny was posted to a range of positions in Navy and the ADF including sea time, involvement in underwater medicine, general practice and later development of strategic and operational health policy for the ADF.

She left full time Service in 2002 and transitioned to the Reserve. At that time she was appointed as the first Chief Medical Officer for the Defence Force Recruiting Organisation where she remained until 2007 when she moved to the Department of Health where she worked as the Principal Medical Adviser in the Office of Health Protection. In this role she was responsible for the provision of medical and

Speaker biographies continue

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Webinar panelists continued...

scientific advice to assist in the work of the Department and the Australian Government in communicable disease control and health emergencies. Additionally, throughout her career, she has continued to regularly work part-time in general practice.

In 2008 she was appointed as Director General - Navy Health Reserve and performed that role until 2012. In February 2015 she was promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed as Surgeon General Australian Defence Force Reserve. She was appointed as the Chief Health Officer, Principal Medical Adviser in DVA in February 2019.



Facilitator:

Associate Professor Glenn Melvin

Glenn is an Associate Professor and clinical psychologist at the School of Psychology at Deakin University and an honorary Associate Professor at the University of Warwick, UK.

For the last five years, Glenn has worked with colleagues at Beyond Blue on the development and evaluation of BeyondNow Suicide Prevention Smartphone application. He led the first clinical trial evaluating the BeyondNow which showed high levels of user satisfaction and improvements in capacity to cope with suicidal thoughts. Recently he has been undertaking research into what BeyondNow users put into their safety plans.

He has an interest in suicide risk assessment and contributed to the evaluation of the Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale while working with Professor Stanley at Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute.