

## WEBINAR PANEL

### Better outcomes in schizophrenia: a patient- centered approach



**Dr Cathy Andronis**

General Practitioner, Victoria

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) Eastern Health where she teaches medical students about the patient centred approach in consultations with patients.

Cathy is a member of the Victorian RACGP-RANZP liaison sub-committee, a FPS trainer with the Australian Society of Psychological Medicine and RACGP, and is the RACGP representative to Mental Health Australia.



**Dr Melissa Connell**

Clinical Psychologist, Queensland

Michelle is a clinical psychologist working in the area of psychosis, trauma and substance use

research and treatment. Michelle also works in private practice and as a manager developing and implementing a model of Trauma Informed Care and Practice for a public health Alcohol and Drug Service. She holds an Honorary Research Fellow position at the University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research.

Over the last 10 years Michelle's worked in a range of mental health settings but has largely focused on working with young people with psychosis.

Michelle has been working with other researchers, clinicians and people with lived experience to try to understand more about the relationship between trauma, psychosis or extreme states, substance use and distress. She is a founding member and the national convenor of the Australian Psychological Society's Psychosis and Psychology Interest Group and founding member and secretary of the Australian branch of the International Society for Psychological and Social approaches to Psychosis (ISPS).



**Russell**

Lived Experience Advocate,  
Victoria

Russell has lived with schizophrenia for over 20 years. He is constantly working on a path to self-improvement and recovery. He is married with two children and working full time.

He has had a couple of roles as a peer support worker in the past and contributed to speaking engagements within schools, universities and other working groups. He believes one of the most important things in psychiatric care is understanding the person prior to illness and that wellness is not just treatment of symptoms.

## Better outcomes in schizophrenia: a patient-centred approach



**Dr Richard Lakeman**

Mental Health Nurse,  
Queensland

Richard has worked in the mental health field as a clinician, manager, teacher and researcher for approximately 30 years.

He has researched and published extensively (80+ publications) on a diverse range of topics including how people cope with extra-ordinary experiences such as voices and how people recover from a suicidal crisis.

His doctoral research examined how homeless sector workers deal with vicarious trauma. He is a psychotherapist and nurse with experience in primary care settings and tertiary mental health services working largely with people with considerable psychosocial complexity.

Most recently he worked in youth mental health and in an Acute Care Team in an Emergency Department. He is presently a Senior Lecturer at Southern Cross University responsible for co-ordinating an on-line Masters of Mental Health programme.



**Facilitator: Julianne Whyte**

Mental Health Social Worker,  
NSW

As founder and CEO of the Amaranth Foundation (2009), Julianne has worked extensively across the rural communities of the Riverina. She graduated in nursing from St Vincents Hospital, Melbourne (1978) and completed a Bachelor of Social Work (2003) from La Trobe University, Wodonga, Victoria.

Julianne is a registered member of the Australian Association of Social Work (MAASW), and has just been elected to be a director on the AASW Board

(2019). She is also a member of the Clinical Division of the College of Social Work (MCSW) and is an accredited Clinical Mental Health Social Worker (AMHSW). Since 2009, Julianne and the Amaranth Foundation has received over \$2 million dollars for Commonwealth and Philanthropic projects focussing on supporting people with advanced chronic and terminal illnesses and their families and care giver needs. She has extensive experience in community development and education with a particular passion for narrative approaches to communication and personal interaction. With the Amaranth Foundation, Julianne provides therapeutic support and counselling to individuals, couples and families for a range of mental health conditions, but specialises in grief, loss and trauma therapy.

Julianne currently holds a casual lecturing position with Charles Sturt University and lectures in Grief, Loss and also Narrative approaches, and provides supervision for social work students as well as providing professional peer supervision. She is now working towards completing her PhD in Social Work and in the 2017 Australia Day Awards, received an Order of Australia Medal for her work advancing Palliative Care in the community.