1] Children with Asperger’s Syndrome at School: Being part of a success story

The Speakers: Dr. Michelle Garnett, MPsychClinPhD MAPS MCCP and Dr. Tony Attwood, MSc PhD AFSP50 MAPS MCCP

Michelle Garnett is Founder and Director of ‘Minds & Hearts.’ She is a clinical psychologist and has specialised in autism spectrum disorders for 14 years. Michelle created the first screening instrument for Asperger’s syndrome, the Australian Scale for Asperger’s Syndrome (ASAS) in 1993 and has completely revised the instrument for publication in 2008. For this work she recently achieved a PhD from the University of Queensland. She has developed expertise in all subtypes of autism across all ages. Prior to opening Minds & Hearts Michelle was Clinic Director and clinical lecturer for the clinical postgraduate programme at Griffith University, Gold Coast campus. Her current research and clinical interests are the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders, and the understanding and development of optimal support and information networks for people on the spectrum and their families. Michelle regularly provides workshops on autism and Asperger’s syndrome in Australia and overseas.

Tony Attwood is a clinical psychologist and Senior Consultant at Minds & Hearts. He acquired his original qualifications in England, and achieved a PhD from the University of London. He has specialised in autism spectrum disorders, especially Asperger’s syndrome. Tony is an adjunct professor at Griffith University, Queensland. His book Asperger’s Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals has become one of the primary texts on Asperger’s Syndrome and has been translated into twenty languages. His current clinical interests are developing diagnostic procedures and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for emotion management for children and adults with Asperger’s Syndrome.

The workshop is aimed toward parents, professionals and para-professionals who are involved in working together to help make school a success for the child with Asperger’s Syndrome (AS). School can be an extremely challenging place for the child with AS who may struggle with both the academic and social curricula. Michelle and Tony will draw on their vast clinical experience and recent research findings to present practical strategies and ideas to help. Those attending the workshop can anticipate: (1) gaining a greater understanding of why these children behave the way they do; (2) learning strategies to help with academic learning; (3) gaining ideas for teaching friendship skills; and (4) knowing how to prevent and manage difficult behaviour. For those participants who are interested, please forward a description of a student for whom ideas and strategies are needed with your registration form (please include no identifying information within the case description). These cases will form part of the discussion of the day. Please forward these cases by Monday 28th April.

2] Bullying in Schools

Speaker: Professor Ken Rigby

Ken Rigby is an Adjunct Research Professor and an educational consultant based at the University of South Australia. He was educated in England where he obtained an honours degree in Economics (London University) and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (Leicester University). Subsequently he worked as a teacher in schools in London and in Norfolk, (both secondary and primary) before emigrating to Australia, and finally as a School Guidance Officer. Subsequently he was employed as a lecturer, then Associate Professor in Psychology and Research Methods at the University of South Australia. He completed a PhD in Psychology at the University of Adelaide in 1977. Over the last ten years he has become a leading authority on bullying and peer victimisation with more than 100 refereed papers and other publications. His most recent book, is Children and bullying: How parents and educators can reduce bullying in schools published by Wiley 2008. Dr Rigby has been invited to address numerous conferences and/or seminars in many countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Canada, United States, Singapore, Korea, Ireland, Belgium, Greece and South Africa, and to provide advice on the development of anti-bullying policies and procedures.

This workshop will outline the nature of bullying definition, kinds of bullying, consequences for mental and physical health; understanding student vulnerability; theoretical perspectives and explorations for bullying in schools. How schools can respond to bullying policy development, risk management, bullying as part of the curricula, promoting better bystander behaviour. Methods of dealing with cases of bullying traditional use of ‘rules and consequences,’ ‘Supporting the Victim,’ Restorative Justice, Mediation, the ‘No Blame Approach,’ and the Method of Shared Concern. Criteria for selecting approaches to handling cases and questions arising.

3] Psychopharmacology for Psychologists

Speaker: Dr. Mark Boschen, BAnons, MPychClin, PhD, MAPS. Lecturer in Clinic Psychology, Griffith University

Mark is a Clinical Psychologist with experience in government, private practice and academic settings. Mark has specialised in the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders since completing his clinical training in 1996. He maintains a private practice, as well as a lecturing position at Griffith University. Mark has extensive experience in psychotherapy training, having managed several University Psychology clinics, and supervised over 40 psychologists-in-training. Mark has served on the National Executive of the APS College of Clinical Psychologists, and provided numerous psychopharmacology workshops for the APS. He has had research presented at both national and international conferences, and international journals.

"Psychologists working in clinical and counselling settings routinely encounter clients who have been prescribed psychotropic medication. Skilled clinicians require a working knowledge of the range of psychopharmacological agents, and current prescribing practices. This workshop starts with the basics of neuronal transmission and uses this to explore the mechanisms of action of a range of psychiatric medications. The focus is on the antidepressants as the most commonly prescribed psychotropic agents, with additional coverage of anxiolytics and antipsychotics."

4] Obsessive Compulsive Disorder in Children

Speaker: Dr Lara Farrell, B Psych (Hons), M Clin Psych, PhD Member APS Clinical College

Dr Lara Farrell is a clinical psychologist who specialises in the assessment, treatment and prevention of anxiety disorders and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in children and youth. Lara graduated from Griffith University with a Clinical Masters degree and a PhD. Lara currently holds a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the Griffith University, where she continues her clinical research in the field of assessment and treatment of emotional disorders in children and youth. Lara has contributed considerably to the field of research in the area of child anxiety and OCD interventions, and has published in internationally renowned psychology and psychiatry journals, as well as publishing numerous book chapters in dedicated edited texts on these topics. Lara regularly presents scientific research and training workshops, and delivers talks in the community at local schools and support groups. Lara has a small private practice at Lakeside Rooms Robina, on the Gold Coast.

This will be an interactive and skills-based workshop for professionals interested in evidence-based cognitive-behavioural treatment of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in children and youth. A brief overview of the literature relative to child and youth OCD will be provided, including a detailed review of the clinical features, as well as factors associated with the aetiology and maintenance of this disorder in childhood. Through this workshop, participants will become familiar with the various psychometrically sound measures available for the effective assessment of childhood OCD. The workshop will also introduce participants to an evidenced-based CBT program, which will be offered to the community through ongoing research at Griffith University. The treatment program is a manualised 15-session family-based cognitive-behavioural intervention for childhood and adolescent OCD. Participants will step through the program sequentially, learning the skills and techniques required for effective family-based treatment of this distressing childhood condition. Specific issues related to family engagement in therapy and treatment resistant cases will be discussed. Discussion of participants’ client cases will occur throughout this workshop.
Assistant Professor Nancy Pachana is an experienced geriatric clinical psychologist and neuropsychologist whose research expertise includes the clinical assessment of cognitive decline in older adults, measurement and treatment of anxiety and mood disorders in later life, functional assessment in later life, interventions with older populations, and general health and well-being in later life. Her clinical expertise includes neuropsychological assessment and clinical treatment of cognitive problems, as well as the development of coping, emotion regulation, and attachment theory. She is currently the editor of the Australian Journal of Gerontology and has been invited to present workshops or symposia on ageing issues both nationally and internationally, and has over 60 peer-reviewed publications and chapters in the field. She is the flagship applied journal of the Australian Psychological Society, and is a member of the editorial boards of The Clinical Gerontologist and the Int’l Journal of Behavioral Medicine. She is a consultant to Alzheimer’s Australia, and works closely with the organizations in terms of seminars, research and strategic initiatives.

Older populations require specialised knowledge with respect to psychological assessment and treatment strategies. This workshop will cover two broad areas, assessment and interventions for older populations. A review of empirically supported assessment tools and major intervention strategies, ways to tailor interventions to older populations, and special considerations for working with cognitively impaired and residential care populations will be featured. Issues arising from competency questions (i.e. guardianship and capacity evaluations), and strategies to assist with behavioural and psychiatric symptoms in dementia (i.e. aggression), will be outlined. Interpersonal issues arising out of work with older adults will be a focus for group discussion.
Registration details: Due to the emphasis on practical skill acquisition, numbers will be strictly limited for all Workshops. It is highly recommended that you book early to avoid disappointment. Registration for individual events or the complete series are welcome.

RSVP: for each workshop no later than 7 days prior to the date of that workshop.

Venue: Room 1.12 (ground level), Business Building GO1, Alumni Place, Griffith University – Gold Coast campus, (off Parklands Drive), Southport.

Parking: For a small fee all day parking available at Church car park (opposite the University, near the roundabout) or Parklands Show Grounds.

Please do not park in any other area, as this will incur a fine.

Please fill in the following Registration Form and send it to:
Ms Kim Napier, Psychology Clinic,
Gold Coast Campus, Griffith University, QLD 4222

Enquiries about the Workshop Series should be addressed to:
Kim Napier tel: (07) 5552 8556; fax: (07) 5552 8165;
or email: k.napier@griffith.edu.au

Costs:
(includes GST, morning tea, lunch & afternoon tea)

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(photocopy of student ID required)

All students must send in a photocopy of their student identification card with their enrolment form.

Cancellations requiring a refund need to be one week prior to each workshop in order to allow for a replacement in that workshop.

Disclaimer: The brochure information was accurate at the time of printing. The organisers reserve the right to make any amendments to the program they deem necessary.

Please indicate which Workshops you wish to attend by ticking the appropriate boxes:

- Friday, 2 May, 9am – 4.30pm
  - Children with Asperger’s at School: Being part of a success story
  - Bullying in Schools
- Friday, 20 May, 9am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 18 July, 9am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 15 August, 9am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 19 September, 9am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 17 October, 9am – 4.30pm
- Friday, 14 November, 9am – 4.30pm

Name__________________________________________

Profession__________________________________________

Organisation__________________________________________

Mailing address__________________________________________

Tel________________________Fax________________________

Mobile________________________________________

Email________________________________________

Charge to credit card Amount $ __________________________

Visa □ Mastercard □ Bankcard □

Card number __________________________

Expiry date __________________________

Name on card __________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________

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