



Second Annual ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Sector Conference:
*Exploring the Relationships Between ACT Alcohol and Other Drugs Services and the
New Prison*

Keynote Conference Speakers Biographies

Dr Mark Brown, University of Melbourne

Dr Brown is a Senior Lecturer in Criminology in the School of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Melbourne. Dr Brown's primary teaching and research interests lie in the areas of penalty, corrections and colonial penal history. He has written extensively on the subject of dangerousness and legislative measures to deal with serious offenders. He has co-edited with John Pratt *Dangerous Offenders: Punishment and Social Order* (Routledge, 2000) and is a co-editor of *The New Punitiveness: Current Trends, Theories, Perspectives* (Willan, 2005). His research in penal history concentrates upon British India and is concerned with colonial ideas of native criminality and the interplay between the emerging academic disciplines of criminology and anthropology and the task of colonial governance. Dr Brown has been a Visiting Fellow at the University of Delhi Law School and travels regularly to Delhi and London to utilise the India Office Records archives. He teaches the undergraduate subjects 'Punishment and Social Control' and Global Criminology, and a Masters subject 'The New Punitiveness'.

Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commission

Dr Watchirs is the ACT Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner. Dr Watchirs has over twenty years experience as a human rights lawyer working for Federal government agencies in Australia, and as an employee, consultant and expert to several United Nations agencies in Geneva, including the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization, the UN Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. She has performed consultancy work for the Australian National Council on AIDS, Hepatitis C and Related Diseases, AusAID, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and the National Mental Health Council of Australia.

The ACT Human Rights Commission's mandate in the areas of human rights and discrimination is to promote human rights in the ACT by administering the *Discrimination Act 1991*, *Human Rights Act 2004* and the *Human Rights Commission Act 2005*. We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to have an explicit statutory basis for respecting, protecting, fulfilling and promoting civil and political rights. The Human Rights Commission role is legislated to review the effect of Territory laws on human rights and report in writing to the Attorney-General (which is later tabled in the Legislative Assembly), for example the Commissioner reviewed the operation of Quamby, a Juvenile Detention facility, in June 2005; and in 2007 the Commission undertook the *Human Rights Audit on the Operation of ACT Correctional Facilities under Corrections Legislation*.

Professor Toni Makkai, Australian National University

Professor Makkai is the Dean of the College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University. She has written widely on the links between drugs and crime. She established the Drug Use Monitoring Program in Australia (DUMA) at the Australian Institute of Criminology and the evaluation of the Queensland drug courts. She is a member of the Australian National Council on Drugs (ANCD) and the Editorial Board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology. She has recently updated the attributable fractions for drug related crime used to estimate the costs of alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs in Australia (with Jeromey Temple). She has had a career which has spanned both the academic and government sector having held the positions of Director of Research and Director at the Australian Institute of Criminology. As a result her work is focused on empirical research that seeks to inform policy development. Her major areas of interest include drugs and crime, crime statistics, drug courts, and regulation and compliance.

Dr Jill Roberts, Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice

Dr Roberts is a specialist in justice health at the Centre for Health Research in Criminal Justice which was formed in 2003 and is part of New South Wales Health. The Centre arose out of the need to establish a centre of excellence to research prisoner health issues and health matters connected with the criminal justice system in general. This is one of the only research centres in the world specifically devoted to the study of prisoner health issues; its work is recognised at the national and international level. Justice Health has conducted three landmark studies: the *Inmate Health Surveys* of 1996 and 2001, and the 2003 *NSW Young People in Custody Health Survey*. The information provided by these surveys has been invaluable to the planning process for future health services for NSW prisoners and juvenile detainees. Additionally, it has also supported numerous funding and advocacy initiatives of the Service.

Dr Peter Sharp, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service

Dr Sharp is Medical Director of the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service which was established in 1988 to provide a culturally safe and holistic health service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the ACT and surrounding areas. He is their longest serving staff member. At first he travelled from Sydney every weekend to run a clinic and then took on home visits. He now runs clinics at local and regional correctional facilities and at Narrabundah Primary School. Dr Sharp also works with older people affected by alcohol and substance abuse and trains other medical professionals in Aboriginal health. He has a high level of understanding of the complex health, social, emotional, and cultural needs of his patients. In return he is held in high esteem by the local Indigenous community. In 2008 Dr Sharp was awarded *The ACT Local Hero Award* as part of the ACT Australian of the Year Awards and in 2009 was awarded the prestigious *Australian Medical Association's Excellence in Health Care Award*.

Professor Michael Levy, ACT Corrections Health Service, ACT Health

Professor Levy holds a senior position in health service delivery to prisoners of the ACT, and holds a conjoint appointment at the level of Professor (Australian National University). He has over fourteen years experience in working between Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and prison-based health services. He is a methadone prescriber and recently completed the ASHM Short Course in Hepatitis C

Medicine. He has previously held positions at the University of Sydney and the World Health Organisation. The ACT Corrections Health Program manages and coordinates the delivery of healthcare to adults and youth detainees in custody at: the remand and detention centres, the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

Alison Churchill, Community Restorative Centre NSW

Ms Churchill qualified in Social Work from Plymouth University, England in 1987. Since that time she has worked as a social worker and counsellor in both England and Australia in the field of Probation and Parole, women's services, child protection, child sexual assault, alcohol and other drugs, the treatment of child sex offenders. She is currently employed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Community Restorative Centre (CRC). Operating for over fifty six years, CRC is the largest specifically funded charity in NSW providing a diverse range of services to prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families and people affected by the criminal justice system. CRC's Mission is to 'Change Lives and Reduce Crime'. The service aims to reduce offending through early intervention and diversion; interrupt the cycle of imprisonment release, offending and re-imprisonment through targeted Transitional Programs; and reduce the impact of incarceration on individuals, families and the community.