



Panelist Biographies

Dr Marshall Watson

Psychiatrist
SA

Marshall Watson is an Aboriginal man and descendant of the Noongar people of the South West of WA. He is a child and adolescent forensic psychiatrist in SA. He sits on the Youth Justice Board of WA and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group. Professionally his interests include: complex childhood trauma and offending, aggression and violence, juvenile sex offenders and problematic offending behaviours champion change in their communities through the development of innovative solutions.



Dr Jeffrey Nelson

Clinical Psychologist
QLD

Jeff Nelson is a clinical psychologist working in the North Queensland region in private practice; in boarding schools that cater specifically for Indigenous students; and with men in the correctional services system. Jeff is an Aboriginal man from Cairns and works predominantly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. His focus on working with this cohort has allowed the development, in his opinion, of a range of effective strategies targeting emotional regulation and positive decision making in environments that are sometimes stubbornly resistant to change. A majority of his work in schools involves using assessment to inform systems and family-based intervention with intention to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people equitable access to opportunity and to enjoy positive life outcomes.





Julie Tongs (OAM)

*CEO Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal
Health Service – Narrabundah
ACT*

Julie Tongs is
a Wiradjuri
woman and
has worked in
Aboriginal



affairs for over 35 years. She has occupied the position of CEO at the ACT Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service since 1997 and NACCHO Director for the same period of time. Included in her working career are the positions of Aboriginal Liaison Officer at the Woden Valley Hospital, and Assistant Advisor to the Honourable Robert Tickner MP, the former Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. This experience has enable Julie to appreciate the needs of the Canberra and region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community to the extent that she has developed a health service which is directed by Community needs, is holistic and focused on closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people's health. Julie's leadership in best practice and innovative solutions in service delivery are examples of how local economic solutions can be applied nationally.

Dr Louis Peachey

*Rural Generalist
QLD*

Dr Louis
Peachey is a
Girimay man
from the
Djiribaligan



language group (Rainforest People) of North Queensland. He is a Senior Medical Officer at the Atherton District Hospital where he works as a Rural Generalist. Dr Peachey was the founding President of the Australian Indigenous Doctors Association, and has been directly involved in Health Advocacy for Indigenous Australians for more than a quarter of a century having served on numerous Federal and State health committees and reference groups throughout his career.



Facilitator: Dr Mary Emeleus

*General practitioner & Psychotherapist
QLD*

Mary has a mixed psychotherapy/GP role at headspace Cairns, part salaried/part private practice which includes seeing clients for medical, psychological medicine and psychotherapy appointments, and participating in peer supervision, intake and case review activities. She works one day per week in a private general practice, and has recently developed a keen interest in developing and teaching counselling skills courses for GPs and consulting in this field, as well as a small amount of Medical Educator work visiting GP registrars in their teaching practices. In 2016, this role has expanded to include monthly visits to Mt Isa!



Her other professional interests include lifestyle medicine, adolescent mental health, early psychosis intervention, psychological and social approaches to psychosis, and treatment of complex trauma. Her psychotherapy work is eclectic, with low-intensity CBT, EMDR therapy, Psychodynamic, Jungian and Existential influences.

Memberships include Australian Society for Psychological Medicine (www.aspm.org.au) (president-elect and principal author of Level 2 FPS training program), RACGP NFSI Psychological Medicine Network, Rural Doctors Association of Australia, and the International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis (ISPS) (www.isps.org.au).