



SANDAS September Seminar Series 2021 Program

All webinars to take place online at 12pm ACST. Book your seminars here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BTFVM>



Seminar 1 – 7th September – Dr Stephen Bright : MDMA-Assisted Psychotherapy for PTSD

Prior to MDMA being banned internationally in 1987, it was showing promise as a pharmacological adjunct to psychotherapy. In the past decade, there has been significant global growth in clinical trials of MDMA that have shown MDMA-assisted psychotherapy can be effective in treating refractory

posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcohol use disorder, and social anxiety among adults with autistic spectrum disorder. The journey to establish clinical trials of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy in Australia has been challenging. Our first effort was rejected by an ethics committee in 2012. This highlighted to us the differences in conducting research within the Australian healthcare system versus the US healthcare system. Our second bid in 2015 was vetoed due to stigma and university conservatism. Then in 2018, Edith Cowan University supported me to lead a small trial of MDMA-assisted psychotherapy. Despite this institutional support, the road to starting recruitment for this trial has still been slow. This presentation will provide an update on the Perth clinical trial of MDMA Assisted Psychotherapy for PTSD (IPAU-1) with a focus on the treatment protocol.

Dr Stephen Bright is a clinically-trained psychologist who has worked in the field for more than 20 years. He has been the chief principal investigator of multisite clinical trials and has published research on psychedelics, microdosing, psychometrics and drug policy. Currently, Dr Bright is principal investigator on a trial investigating MDMA for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). He is a Director of the not-for-profit company Psychedelic Research In Science & Medicine (PRISM) Ltd. and Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia. Dr Bright supervises PhD and Masters students' research at Edith Cowan University, where he teaches counselling skills and psychopharmacology. He has given expert testimony to parliamentary inquests and court hearings. In 2018 and 2019, he was awarded Edith Cowan University's Most Prolific Conversation Author.

Seminar 2 – 14th September – Dr Tamara Mackean : Constructs of Care and Healing: The Value of First Nations' Knowledges and Experiences

Tamara Mackean is a Waljen woman, Public Health Medicine Physician and Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine. Associate Professor Mackean is the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program Lead in the Flinders Health and Medical Research Institute and holds a conjoint appointment with the George Institute for Global Health. She leads a body of research investigating health systems, health equity and wellbeing. Associate Professor Mackean's research projects span health policy, quality health care, social and emotional wellbeing and Indigenous research methodologies.



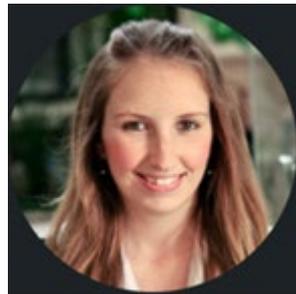


Seminar 3 – 21st September – Associate Professor Caitlin Hughes : Challenges and opportunities of decriminalising or legalising illicit drugs in the South Australian context

This presentation will explore the issue of decriminalisation of illicit drugs in South Australia. What are the specific challenges in SA and where are the opportunities for change in our state?

Caitlin Hughes is an Associate Professor in criminology and drug policy and Matthew Flinders Fellow at the Centre for Crime Policy and Research, Flinders University. Caitlin has spent 18 years researching drug and alcohol policy, including 12.5 years at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW, working as part of the Drug Policy Modelling Program. Her research seeks to advance Australian and international drug policy by improving the evidence-base into the effects of different legislative and law enforcement approaches to drug use and supply and working directly with policy makers. Caitlin is also Visiting Fellow at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW and Vice-President of the International Society for the Study of Drug Policy.

Seminar 4 – 28th September – Toni Karlsson and Dr Rachel Sutherland : Emerging Trends in Drug Use and Harms in South Australia, 2021



This presentation will include findings from the Drug Trends program of work. Historical trends, as well as highlights from 2021, will be discussed in the context of shaping responses to drug-related harms in South Australia.

Dr Sutherland is a Research Fellow at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW. She has over 10 years' experience working on a range of research projects, focusing on illicit drug surveillance and harm reduction. She completed her PhD in November 2018, which examined the new psychoactive substances market in Australia. She is currently the Acting Program Lead for Drug Trends, an internationally renowned program of work that identifies emerging problems in substance use in Australia, providing impetus for policy responses and intervention.

Ms Karlsson is a Research Officer at the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, UNSW. She has over 8 years' experience working across a number of projects, focusing heavily on opioid-related studies and drug surveillance. She completed her Master's Degree in Health Science in 2007. Toni is currently the South Australian coordinator for the EDRS and IDRS projects, falling under Drug Trends, an internationally renowned program of work that identifies emerging problems in substance use in Australia, providing impetus for policy responses and intervention.