

# THE CONTINUUM OF INSTITUTIONAL SEXUAL ABUSE

FROM PERPETRATORS TO PREVENTION

The issue of institutional sexual abuse is a complex and varied problem that in recent times – with much support from the Royal Commission – has come to the forefront of Australian society as opposed to remaining hidden, covered up or simply ignored. This symposium will bring together a variety of speakers covering numerous topics and sectors, ranging from:

- perpetrators in positions of authority
- young people who engage in sexually abusive behaviour in residential care
- the role of institutions and organisations not only as enablers of abuse, but also being held accountable and responsible for the prevention of abuse.

ANZATSA is providing a platform for both speakers and delegates to gain knowledge of contemporary understandings, and to also share ideas aimed at implementing preventative measures.

**NOVEMBER 6–7, 2014**

**NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE  
THEATRETTE  
6 MACQUARIE STREET  
SYDNEY**



**ANZATSA**  
[www.anzatsa.org](http://www.anzatsa.org)

The Australian and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse

# DAY 1 Thursday 6 November 2014

Session 1 9.00am–10.30am (90 mins)		
1(a)	9.00am–9.30am (30 mins)	<b>Welcome to Country</b> Opening day 1
1(b)	9.30am–10.30am (60 mins)	<b>Dr Daryl Higgins</b> Deputy Director AIFS  <i>What does it take to be a child-safe organisation ... and can research evidence help?</i>
Morning tea 10.30am–11.00am (30 mins)		
Session 2 11.00am–12.30pm (90 mins)		
2(a)	11.00am–12.30pm (90 mins)	<b>Dr Michael Salter</b> University of Western Sydney  <i>High profile offenders and collective complicity in institutional abuse</i>
Lunch 12.30pm–1.30pm (60 mins)		
Session 3 1.30pm–3.00pm (90 mins)		
3(a)	1.30pm–2.30pm (60 mins)	<b>Hayley Boxall</b> Acting Senior Research Analyst – Australian Institute of Criminology  <i>Cycles of recognition: a socio-political history of Australia's sexual assault and child sexual abuse legislation</i>
3(b)	2.30pm–3.00pm (30 mins)	<b>Vicki Geraghty</b> Counselling Manager, Care Leavers Australia Network  <i>CLAN: who are they and what do they do?</i>
Afternoon tea 3.00pm–3.30pm (30 mins)		
Session 4 3.30pm–5.00pm (90 mins)		
4(a)	3.30pm–4.00pm (30 mins)	<b>Dr Tamara Blakemore</b> Social Work Lecturer & Field Education Coordinator: University of Newcastle Adjunct Research Fellow: Centre for Child Protection: University of South Australia  <i>Context matters: synergistic understandings of the occurrence and outcomes of abuse</i>
4(b)	4.00pm–5.00pm (60 mins)	<b>Angela Webb</b> Chief Executive – Aboriginal Child, Family & Community Care State Secretariat (AbSec), NSW  <b>Dr Daryl Higgins</b> Deputy Director (Research), Australian Institute of Family Studies  <i>Best-practice in organisational responses to keeping children safe: perspectives from Aboriginal agencies</i>

## DAY 2 Friday 7 November 2014

Session 1 9.00am–10.30am (90 mins)		
1(a)	9.00am–9.15am (15 mins)	Opening day 2
1(b)	9.15am–10.00am (45 mins)	<b>Dr Howard Bath</b> The Children's Commissioner, Northern Territory <i>Forty years of changing risk in residential care</i>
1(c)	10.00am–10.30am (30 mins)	<b>Bernie Geary OAM</b> Principal Commissioner Commission for Children and Young People, Victoria <i>An evolution in understanding sexual abuse and sexual exploitation in Victoria</i>
Morning tea 10.30am–11.00am (30 mins)		
Session 2 11.00am–12.30pm (90 mins)		
2(a)	11.00am–11.30am (30 mins)	<b>Rob Hulls</b> Director, Centre for Innovative Justice <i>Instituting change and changing institutions – meaningful responses to sexual abuse</i>
2(b)	11.30am–12.00pm (30 mins)	<b>Kerryn Boland</b> NSW Children's Guardian and A/NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People <i>Risk, regulation and the Working With Children Check: the safety of children and management of organisational risk</i>
2(c)	12.00pm–12.30pm (30 mins)	<b>Misha Coleman</b> Executive Officer, Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce <i>The Australian Government's Immigration Minister – judge, jailor, juror AND guardian of children?</i>
Lunch 12.30pm–1.30pm (60 mins)		
Session 3 1.30pm–2.45pm (75 mins)		
3(a)	1.30pm–2.00pm (30 mins)	<b>Dr Kathleen McPhillips</b> Lecturer, Sociology and Anthropology, University of Newcastle <i>Child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church</i>
3(b)	2.00pm–2.45pm (45 mins)	<i>Keeping the conversation going: where to from now?</i> A panel discussion with presenters from over the two days who will respond to questions, keeping a focus on future directions.
Afternoon tea 2.45pm–3.15pm (30 mins)		
Session 4 3.15pm–4.00pm (45 mins)		
4(a)	3.15pm–4.00pm (45 mins)	<b>Professor Ian Katz</b> Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW <i>Institutional child sexual abuse: then and now</i>

## SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS:

### ■ Rob Hulls

Director, Centre for Innovative Justice

As Attorney-General for Victoria between 1999–2010, Rob instigated significant changes to Victoria's legal system which saw the establishment of the state's first Charter of Human Rights and reform to Victoria's Upper House. In October 2012 Rob was appointed Adjunct Professor at RMIT and was invited to establish the new Centre for Innovative Justice as its inaugural director. The centre's objective is to develop, drive, and expand the capacity of the justice system to meet and adapt to the needs of its diverse users. Rob has always had a passion for ensuring that all aspects of the justice system, including courts, act as a positive intervention in people's lives.



### ■ Angela Webb

Chief Executive Officer, Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat (Absec)

Angela joined Absec in 2009 and has been instrumental in its growth over the past 4 years. She is a proud Aboriginal woman, from the Gumbaynggirr and Bundjalung people of the mid north coast of NSW.



Upon appointment Angela made a brief statement saying "I am looking forward to new challenges of AbSec, especially working with skilled staff and the AbSec Board in the evolving OOHC & Child Protection sector. There is still much to do to for Aboriginal children and young people in NSW and in Australia more broadly. AbSec is committed to supporting our Aboriginal agencies providing culturally appropriate services to achieve better life outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people and families. AbSec recognises that it is no one person or agency's responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our children. The MOU that stands between Family & Community Services and AbSec is inclusive of the Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Peaks, ACWA and agencies – whilst acknowledging that community based solutions are the real solutions."

### ■ Kerryn Boland

NSW Children's Guardian  
NSW Commissioner  
for Children and Young People

Kerryn Boland is a trained lawyer with experience in human rights, industrial relations and regulatory reform. Ms Boland has extensive experience in senior executive roles including nine years with the former NSW Department of Community Services. Ms Boland was appointed to be the NSW Children's Guardian in 2005 and started her role as Acting NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People in 2013.

The Office of the Children's Guardian is an independent statutory authority with regulatory functions relating to out-of-home care, voluntary out-of-home care, adoption services, specific areas of children's employment and the NSW Working With Children Check.



### ■ Dr Daryl Higgins

Deputy Director (Research),  
Australian Institute of  
Family Studies

Dr Higgins is a registered psychologist, and has been researching child abuse, family violence, sexuality and family functioning since 1993. He has a sound knowledge of state and territory policy contexts across Australia. He has considerable experience in evaluation methodology and frameworks across areas including child protection, out-of-home care, sexual assault, child care, parenting, care for family members with a disability, and family and community wellbeing.



For more information and registration go to [www.anzatsa.org](http://www.anzatsa.org)

## ■ Dr Michael Salter

University of Western Sydney

Dr Michael Salter is a lecturer in criminology at the University of Western Sydney and an Associate Editor of the international journal *Child Abuse Review*. His book *Organised Sexual Abuse* (2013, Routledge) was the first Australian study of multi-perpetrator child sexual abuse, and he has a forthcoming book on the gendered impacts on abuse and harassment on social media. He was recently awarded the 2014 New Scholar Prize by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology for his study of online revenge and justice-seeking following sexual assault.



## ■ Dr Howard Bath

The Children's Commissioner,  
Northern Territory

Dr Howard Bath has been the Northern Territory Children's Commissioner since 2008, a role that focuses on the wellbeing of vulnerable children in the child protection, youth justice, mental health and disability service systems. In 2010 he was co-chair of a Board of Inquiry into the Child Protection system in the Northern Territory that produced the 'Growing Them Strong, Together' report. Trained as a Clinical Psychologist, he has worked as a practitioner, agency director, program manager, and researcher. His practice experience has included work across five states focusing on therapeutic interventions for young people with sexual behaviour problems.



## ■ Bernie Geary OAM

Principal Commissioner, Commission  
for Children and Young People

Bernie has worked with vulnerable young people and their families for over 40 years. During this time he has been an advisor and advocate on issues relating to vulnerable young people and their families.



He began as Victoria's first outreach youth worker in Melbourne's West Heidelberg area, and managed the Brosnan Centre prior to becoming the CEO of Jesuit Social Services.

Bernie has served on the Victorian Youth Parole Board (1988–2005), Premier's Drug Advisory Councils in 1999 and 2001, the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council (2005–2008) and the Victorian Children's Council (2005–2013).

As the inaugural Child Safety Commissioner appointed in 2005, Bernie and his staff worked hard to enhance the safety and wellbeing of Victoria's children, especially those more vulnerable, in child protection and out-of-home care.

On 1 March 2013, Bernie commenced as the Principal Commissioner, Commission for Children and Young People. The Commission has wide ranging powers and responsibilities including the capacity to initiate inquiries where it believes there have been issues of concern in the delivery of services that effect children and young people. The Commission is independent of government and reports to the Victorian Parliament.

## ■ Hayley Boxall

Research Analyst, Australian  
Institute of Criminology

Hayley is an Acting Senior Research Analyst with the Australian Institute of Criminology. During her time with the Institute, Hayley has been involved in a number of complex projects concerning child protection, child sexual abuse and family and domestic violence issues. This includes the evaluation of the Family Group Conferencing pilot program, the evaluation of alternative dispute resolution initiatives in the care and protection jurisdiction of the NSW Children's Court and a review of Australian sexual assault and child sexual abuse legislation for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Hayley is also currently evaluating the Preventing Violence against Women in our Community project and the Adolescent Family Violence Program, both of which are currently operating in Victoria. Before starting at the AIC, Hayley was a client support officer with the NSW Victims and Witnesses of Crime Court Support service.



## SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS:

### ■ Misha Coleman

Executive Officer, Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce

Misha has extensive experience living and working in the regions from which people flee as asylum seekers and refugees including Palestine, Ethiopia, Kenya, Vietnam and Cambodia. She was formerly the CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid, and also headed up an Australian Agency in our Embassy in Vietnam for 3 years. Formerly, as a Registered Nurse and Midwife, Misha worked in black townships in South Africa during apartheid and in several Australian indigenous communities throughout the 1990s. In 2000 she was awarded the Australian Service Medal by the Government for active duty in the Multinational Peacekeeping Mission to Bougainville. In 2007 she was awarded two medals by the Government of Vietnam for services to development. Misha is also currently an elected Councillor in the City of Yarra which hosts the Richmond and Collingwood football teams. She is no shrinking violent and enjoys being challenged on her views.



### ■ Dr Tamara Blakemore

Social Work Lecturer & Field Education Coordinator, University of Newcastle

Adjunct Research Fellow, Centre for Child Protection, University of South Australia

An experienced, creative and innovative social worker, Tamara brings practice wisdom; academic rigor; and a strong working knowledge of the Australian Social Policy system to her academic role at the University of Newcastle. Her research interests focus on the contexts in and through which children develop and grow, and the factors that support wellbeing and increase resilience. Tamara's doctoral thesis inspired by her clinical work with sexual abuse survivors, explored the synergistic influence of context on both the occurrence and outcomes of child sexual abuse in a large scale, longitudinal study of mothers and children in QLD. Tamara holds an adjunct position with the University of South Australia, Centre for Child Protection and is currently commissioned to produce research for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



### ■ Dr Kathleen McPhillips

University of Newcastle

Kathleen McPhillips is a sociologist of religion and gender and has held academic positions at the Australian National University and the University of Western Sydney before coming to Newcastle University in 2010. She has published extensively in the area of religion, feminism, gender and power. Kathleen edited the *Australian Religion Studies Review* journal for a number of years and is currently managing editor of *Seachanges* journal and on the editorial board of the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*. She is a member of the *Religion and Radicalism* research group at Newcastle University. Her current research project investigates the issue of child sexual abuse and the Catholic Church and is funded by the University of Newcastle. She attended the NSW Special Inquiry in 2013 and is currently attending Case Study Hearings involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse in Australia.



### ■ Vicki Geraghty

Counselling Manager  
Care Leavers Australia  
Network (CLAN)

Vicki has worked in the field of welfare management, training and counselling for nearly 40 years. Vicki has been working with CLAN to achieve justice and redress for adult survivors of all types of institutional child abuse.



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## ■ Professor Ilan Katz

Social Policy Research Centre, UNSW



Ilan joined the Social Policy Research Centre in January 2005, becoming Director in July 2007–2011. After graduating in South Africa he started his career as a social worker in the UK. He was for several years Head of Practice Development and Research at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. After spending some time as a civil servant in the Department for Education and Skills he returned to research as Deputy Director of the Policy Research Bureau. His research interests include evidence based policy, child protection, evaluation of complex programs, parenting, disability, youth justice, Indigenous policy, prevention and family support, children and communities, youth mental health, comparative child welfare systems and migration, race and ethnicity.

He has led a number of large scale evaluations of human service programs, both in Australia and internationally. His particular expertise is to link research findings to policy and practice, having worked in all three sectors.

Ilan has sat on a number of research bodies and provided advice to governments on child protection issues in Australia and internationally. He is a member of the NSW Child Death Review Team.



## About ANZATSA

- The Australia New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse is dedicated to community protection and safety, through the promotion of professional standards, practices and education in sexual abuse prevention, assessment, intervention and research.
- ANZATSA is committed to community protection and safety. When considering case management or intervention, we hold the interest and safety of victims and potential victims, as always the priority.
- ANZATSA promotes knowledge of statutes and scientific data relevant to the perpetration of sexual abuse.
- ANZATSA recognises that the diverse indigenous cultures and people of Australia and New Zealand occupy a special place as the original cultures and people of both countries.
- ANZATSA seeks to ensure that professional practice is conducted in accordance with the articles contained in the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Our members carry out their work in ways appropriate to and respectful of the Maori people of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and of the Aboriginal peoples of Australia and Torres Strait Islands. This includes consulting with, working alongside, and sharing resources with indigenous peoples.
- ANZATSA members do not discriminate against clients with regard to race, religion, gender identity, sexual preference or disability. Instead our members seek to perform professional duties with the highest level of integrity, maintaining professional confidentiality within the scope of statutory responsibilities.

## Become a member of ANZATSA!

Join ANZATSA for the benefits of:

- Collegial networking and support
- Professional development opportunities
- *Sexual Abuse in Australia and New Zealand* (SAANZ) Journal inclusive in membership
- Discount registration fees at ANZATSA conferences and workshops
- ATSA and NOTA affiliation
- Early notifications and members rates for workshops and training

Visit [www.anzatsa.org](http://www.anzatsa.org) for details

## SAANZ journal

*Sexual Abuse in Australia and New Zealand* – the association's journal – is concerned with understanding the psychological and social factors that impact on the perpetration and victimisation of sexual offending and sexual abuse to promote best practice in this important field.

The editors, Armon Tamatea (NZ) and Katie Seidler (Aus.) invite you to contribute and share the important work you are doing. The next edition of the journal is a special edition focussing on indigenous issues in Australia and New Zealand.

E: [saanz@anzatsa.org](mailto:saanz@anzatsa.org)

## Symposium co-chairs

Jason Freeland  
Jessica Pratley

## Symposium committee

William Wainwright  
Melissa Braden  
Dale Tolliday

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