



# ANZATSA

## Annual General Meeting 2019

### President's Report

<i>E te whenua</i>	To the land
<i>Te turanga o te iwi</i>	The standing place of the Nation
<i>Tēnā koe</i>	Greetings
<i>E te whare e tu nei</i>	To the house standing here
<i>Tēnā koe</i>	Greetings
<i>E nga Tangata whenua</i>	To the Home people
<i>Karanga mai, karanga mai, karanga mai</i>	Call to us
<i>Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou</i>	Greetings, greetings, greetings

*"Whakapūpūtia mai ō mānuka kia kore ai e whati"*  
Cluster the branches of the manuka so that they will not break

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Tēnā koutou e nga Rangatira – greetings esteemed members,

One of the pleasures of writing the President's report for the AGM is that I am obliged to take stock and look back on the year. Of course, it is you, the members, who do all of the work at the coal face and/or in knowledge-generation that is resulting in a healthy level of activity by ANZATSA in the many areas and roles that we play in national, trans-Tasman and international arenas. On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank you all for your considerable contributions to making our societies safer. Indeed, 2018-2019 has been a productive year for ANZATSA: successful professional development events, a conference, a growth in membership and the successful recruitment of office-bearing positions.

While a very fortunate year in many ways for the Association, 2018-2019 has been a period of trauma, particularly for our Ōtautahi/Christchurch colleagues. With the exception of the Christchurch earthquakes of 2010-2011, I am unaware of any other time in ANZATSA's history when so many members' lives have been so collectively and negatively impacted. Though clearly an horrific event – the consequences of which are still playing out as we speak – it is clear that the trauma to our colleagues was felt across Australia and New Zealand and the connexion between us has grown stronger as a result.

## **Finances**

The Treasurer reports a healthy balance of funds across Australia and New Zealand over the last twelve months. Expenses have been low – conference notwithstanding – and extra income from trainings as well as robust administrative and accounting support have made a significant difference in how we manage income streams and expenditure. This very pleasing outcome comes at a time when there have been challenges recruiting an executive committee member with the requisite skills and expertise needed to provide sound financial advice and inform a viable financial strategy. In this regard, I am excited that Dr Katie Seidler has lent her steady hand in the role of Treasurer. I should add here that Dr Seidler is a returning member of the executive committee, and whose insights and experience as Director of LSC Psychology (NSW) has been of benefit to the Association.

## **Membership**

There has been an increase in membership over the last year. In August 2018 we had 144 members and to date, we have 188 active members – reflecting positive growth in a non-conference year. However, there have been a number of issues noted with new membership applications and/or membership renewals on the website that may have affected potential memberships.

## **Cultural/indigenous responsiveness**

To be credible, members and stakeholders need to see themselves reflected in the organisation, and there is a wide spectrum of people and communities who have a stake in sexual abuse treatment. In recent years, it has been signalled at two Royal Commissions of Inquiry in both of our respective countries that Maori, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island interests have not been well-served or well-reflected in activities that are relevant to the Association. Past efforts – and I acknowledge the contribution of Dale Tolliday, here – such as the statement on indigeneity, the special edition of SAANZ (2016), training workshops, as well as promoting indigenous voices at this and the prior conference, have signified to stakeholders as to our position – and willingness – to weigh-in on important sexual abuse issues as they affect indigenous and hard-to-reach communities. However, the need for us to support the often invisible and woefully under-resourced efforts in these spaces is a direction and space I would like to see the Association take as we move into the 2020s. The opening whakatauki speaks of the necessity for unity and to have a basic philosophy about where we are going.

## **Professional development**

There have been two major developmental streams for professional networking and training: SABTS training and the conference.

*ANZATSA SABTS Training Program.* We are indebted to Dr Russell Pratt, (former) SABTS training co-ordinator who has been a stalwart in training provision and growing the training profile for ANZATSA. This was the sixth year of ANZATSA providing training to the Victorian SABTS sector. The ANZATSA SABTS (formerly ANZATSA/CEASE) training program has provided an important service for practitioners as well as a stream of revenue for ANZATSA. There have been 12 agencies providing SABTS services, and the trainings have been 10 workshops for frontline and advanced practitioners. Attendee feedback, as in the past, has been universally positive, resulting in another excellent year of training.

*'Valuing All Voices': 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial ANZATSA Conference.* This year is, of course, marked by our conference and the second ANZATSA conference to be held in Brisbane in 13 years. It's great to return to Queensland State. On behalf of the executive, I would like to thank the conference sub-committee of Dr Danielle Harris and Dr Gwenda Willis and their assistants, as well as events and project manager-extraordinaire, Carrie Zhang, and her team from Griffith for their seamless co-ordination efforts. The sub-committee have devoted themselves to an outstanding amount of work to prepare the event in which we are now participating and have built an exciting programme – drawing on international and national thought leaders and trainers. In keeping with the tradition set since 2000, this conference promises to be a highly valuable event for professionals working in the field of sexual abuse.

### ***Sexual Abuse in Australia & New Zealand (SAANZ)***

The astute member will be aware of the absence of issues of SAANZ for some time now. It is very unfortunate that we have found ourselves unable to meet our goal of two issues annually as a result of the small number of article submissions. The Co-Editors, Dr Seidler and myself, have indicated that both academic and practice-focused articles are of interest. Needless to say, the executive committee have had to rethink the future of the journal. The 'point' of the journal (i.e., promoting sex abuse scholarship in the region) is coming to cross-purposes with impact factors and the like. We have a small readership, submissions are a trickle at best, and even students are likely to be aiming for higher Impact Factor journals. In order for SAANZ to remain viable, it is essential that members submit articles for publication. That said, I would like to express my appreciation to Katie and the entire team of Editorial Consultants who are based in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Canada.

### **Website**

The Association's website has continued to benefit from professional IT development and maintenance. Miles Summer has continued in his role as Webmaster. While improvements continue to be made to the website, several members have found it difficult to renew membership. This has been very frustrating for them and is most regrettable. We are grateful to Miles for addressing these issues as he continues to provide us with his technical expertise in maintaining and improving the site.

### **ANZATSA Executive Committee**

This has been both a sad and exciting time – sad for the executive committee to have lost the skills and enthusiasm of people who have contributed enormously, and exciting to be welcoming new talent and energy in their place. I would like to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, William Wainwright, for navigating the Association through heady waters and uncertain times since the merger and being a good ear and sounding board for me, especially when I was transitioning into this role.

I also want to acknowledge the contributions of members who have since stepped out of the executive committee since the last AGM. Indeed, it is with some sadness that we say farewell to Jessica 'Jess' Pratley (NSW), Jason Freeland (VIC), and Melissa 'Mel' Braden (VIC). I thank you all for your enthusiasm and contribution to ANZATSA functioning, activity, and strategy over the years and hope we can still draw on your knowledge in other capacities.

I would also like to welcome new members to the Board (underlined) and to thank continuing members for their support and selfless hard work on behalf of the Association:

- Jeanie Deane, *Secretary*, Director, FamSAFE, Melbourne.
- Dr Katie Seidler, *Treasurer*, Director LSC Psychology: Clinical Forensic Psychology Services, Sydney.
- Dr Danielle Harris, Deputy Director-Research, Griffith Youth Forensic Service, Griffith Criminology Institute, and Senior Lecturer, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Griffith University.
- Dr Russell Pratt, Founder and Principal, Prime Forensic Psychology, Melbourne.
- Dale Tolliday OAM, Clinical Advisor, New Street Services, Sydney.
- Associate Professor Gwenda Willis, Clinical psychologist and Senior Lecturer, School of Psychology, University of Auckland.
- Brandon Wilson, Practice Leader, Adolescent Services, STOP, Christchurch and Team Leader, Nelson Service.

### **Final thoughts...**

A key task for the Association moving forward is to (1) grow our membership base, (2) encourage korero (dialogue) with each other, and (3) develop a vision for the Association – together. Our Association is a fantastic Association, and I invite you to consider how you can contribute, not only through attending the conference and trainings, but also via sub-committees and by bringing new members on board, particularly those in the earlier stages of their career, so that ANZATSA can work together for a healthier future and can continue to contribute to safer communities and advancing practice knowledge in this most important of spaces. In that spirit, I will finish with this well-known whakatauki:

*“Nāku te rourou nāu te rourou ka ora ai te iwi”*

With your basket and my basket, the people will be sustained

Ngā mihi ki a koutou – thank you,



Armon Tamatea

President

26 July 2019