

Title	Speaker/s	Biography
The value of connectedness: lived experiences of loneliness and isolation in our communities	Associate Professor Simon Stafrace Ms De Backman-Hoyle Mr Brian Vickers Professor Sharon Lawn Dr Helen McGowan Dr Daniela Vecchio	<p>Associate Prof. Simon Stafrace is presently employed as Program Director of Psychiatry at Alfred Health as well as Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor at Monash University and Board Director of Tandem, the peak body for mental health carers in Victoria. Simon is Chair of the Community Collaboration Committee. De Backman-Hoyle is Co-Chair for the Lived Experience Committee for the Centre of Research for Suicide Prevention at the Black Dog Institute. De also sits as Co-Chair of the College’s Community Collaboration Committee.</p> <p>Brian Vickers works as a Consumer Advisor with Northland District Health Board. He is a Community Member of the College’s Community Collaboration Committee.</p> <p>Professor Sharon Lawn is currently the Director of Flinders Human Behaviour and Health Research Unit in the Department of Psychiatry at Flinders University. Sharon is in her third term as a Community Member on the College’s Community Collaboration Committee.</p> <p>Dr Helen McGowan is a Psychiatrist of Old Age and works in Perth, as Clinical Director of the Older Adult Program for the North Metropolitan Mental Health Service. She is currently Acting Chair for WA Branch of RANZCP and a Past Chair of the WA branch of the Faculty of Psychiatry of Old Age. She sits on the College’s Community Collaboration Committee as a Co-opted Member.</p>

Dr Vecchio is a Consultant Psychiatrist currently working in Rockingham, Western Australia. She is actively involved with the college and is the treasurer of the WA Branch and an inaugural committee member of the WA Section of Leadership and Management.

Hotspots of complaint risk among mental health practitioners: a retrospective cohort study of complaints about psychiatrists and psychologists in Australia

Dr Benjamin Veness
A/Prof Marie Bismark

Benjamin Veness is a psychiatry trainee with Alfred Health. In 2017 he was awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' New Investigator Grant for this research project investigating complaints about psychiatrists and psychologists in Australia. Prior to commencing his career in medicine, Dr Veness worked in the corporate sector, primarily in corporate strategy. He has gained experience in governance, policy and advocacy through his two terms on the Senate of The University of Sydney, the presidency of the Australian Medical Students' Association, and representative positions within the Australian Medical Association. In 2013 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship to research the issue of university students' mental ill-health, and in the same year he completed a Master of Public Health for which he was later awarded the Edmund Barton Medal by The University of Sydney. Dr Veness also has a significant interest in doctors' health and is a member of the leadership group for the federally-funded 'Tackling Mental Ill-Health in Medical Students and Doctors' project.

Associate Professor Marie Bismark is a psychiatry trainee with Melbourne Health. She also holds qualifications in law, public health, bioethics and public policy. A/Prof Bismark heads the Law and Public Health Unit at the University of Melbourne. Her

research has been published in leading journals including NEJM, MJA, CMAJ and BMJ Quality and Safety. She has previously worked as a solicitor with a leading NZ law firm, served as an advisor to the Health Complaints Commissioner and completed a Harkness Fellow in Health Care Policy at Harvard University. A/Prof Bismark is an experienced company director, serving on the boards of GMHBA Limited and Summerset (aged care). She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Wiley Blackwell Award for Excellence in Medical Education. A/Prof Bismark and her husband have three children.