



ACPP
Australasian
Confederation of
Psychoanalytic
Psychotherapies

theConfed matters

No4. March 2024

WELCOME

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Confed Matters.

IN THIS ISSUE

We report on developments up until 2023 since our last edition of Confed Matters in 2020. We include brief reports from our three sub committees noted as the Website Committee, Registration Committee and the Ethics and Professional Standards Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

With much excitement, we announce the **3rd ACPP Conference** to be held on **Saturday 17th August 2024** in Sydney.

SUGGESTIONS

We encourage your active participation in the Confed so if you have any suggestions for our consideration, please email admin@acpp.org.au

From the Secretary's Quill



Since our last edition of Confed matters in 2020, much has occurred on the global stage in terms of health, geopolitics, indigenous affairs, the growing fear of AI, climate change and natural disasters, violence and resulting trauma. We live in a time of seismic shifts in both consciousness and unconscious process. Both at a personal and societal level, feelings of exhaustion and defeat are palpable. Yet at times like these, our community can and should sustain and connect us. We hope that our long-awaited newsletter re-establishes connection amongst us and reinvigorates our interest in working together as a confederation of psychoanalytic psychotherapies. It is with our language and knowledge of the unconscious, that we have much to contribute to the greater community.

Over the past years despite the grip of the Covid pandemic that added to fatigue and capacity to get things done, several initiatives were undertaken by the Confed. These include crafting a statement regarding the Voice to Parliament for our website, attending Mental Health Australia events, corresponding with the NDIS and various government bodies for inclusion in expert forums and draft legislation. We met with CARO and invited members from our associations to attend our Executive Board meetings so they could become aware of our work. Our three subcommittees further worked tirelessly to streamline our structure and processes.

The Voice to Parliament

In the lead up to the Voice to Parliament referendum held on 14 October 2023, the board approached members Anne Noonan ANZSJA, Craig San Roque ANZSJA and Pamula Nathan PPAA to assist with crafting a statement regarding the Voice to Parliament from a psychoanalytic perspective. The statement was then displayed on our website. We gratefully appreciate their expertise and knowledge about the First Nations experience in Australia.

Mental Health Australia

To increase our visibility as a peak body for psychoanalytic psychotherapies, board members of the Confed attended events with Mental Health Australia (MHA) throughout 2023. We attended the Mental Health Policy Forum in May 2023, the Impact of Climate on Mental Health event in June 2023 and the Parliamentary Advocacy Day in September 2023. Our President Rob Gordon also engaged in an individual meeting with the new NSW CEO Carolyn Nikoloski in June 2023 to further discuss the inclusion and role of the ACPP with MHA going forward. As a result of attending a MHA meeting, we were approached to work aside the BPD (borderline personality disorder) Foundation. The ACPP concluded that their proposal did not align with the methods and approaches employed by our members however we invited further discussion in due course.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, we anticipate our attendance at a conversation with Dr. Ruth Vine, the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Mental Health and Aged Care. Dr. Vine is a known 'friend' of psychoanalytic treatment, so we look forward to her reflections on her extensive career in Mental Health.



*The River, Lily Sandover Kngwarreye
1989 ARAS*

CARO

The organisation known as CARO is a psychoanalytically orientated trauma service. CARO stands for Crisis and Responders Outreach and was developed by Vivienne Elton as President and Frances Thompson-Salo. This program offers up to five free psychological counselling sessions either embodied or online to people who have suffered from trauma because of migration, asylum seeking or as a frontline Australian responder to trauma. The sessions are rebated through Medicare or provided pro bono and is serviced by clinicians who are members of APAS. We welcomed Vivienne Elton to a board meeting so that we could become more aware of CARO's role and to form a relationship with CARO.

Advocacy and Submission

We corresponded with numerous organisations throughout 2023. We supported the matter of privacy in psychotherapy concerns tabled by Dr. Anthony Korner from ANZAP and Julia Meyerowitz-Katz ANZSJA. This resulted in corresponding with the Victorian Attorney General's Department following a paper prepared and presented by Julia Meyerowitz-Katz ANZSJA. We wrote letters to the Hon Simone McGurk W.A. Minister for Training; Water; Youth, Hon John Quigley Attorney General; Minister for Electoral Affairs and Hon Mark McGowan, Premier in support of LGBTQIA+ conversion practices ban in W.A. We also corresponded with the NDIS regarding their policy of paying providers for missed sessions after a member brought this to our attention.

Regarding the Better Access Medicare Review held in 2023, we corresponded with Hon Mark Butler, MP Minister for Health and Aged Care and Hon Emma McBride, MP Assistant Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention House of Representatives. This culminated in our President Rob Gordon meeting with Anthea Raven A/g First Assistant Secretary Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Division and Dr. Ruth Vine, Chief Psychiatrist, Victoria. The outcome of this meeting was that we were invited to provide a brief submission for the Better Access Medicare Review.

Israel and Hamas

While it may appear that we have remained silent on the disturbing and ongoing conflict in the Middle East, as a board we continue to work on providing a statement to our members to offer them psychological support from a psychoanalytic informed viewpoint. Like our member associations and the greater community at large, we have experienced this ongoing matter as both distressing and polarising. Nonetheless, we remain dedicated to finding a way forward to support our members currently. We thank you for your patience as we work towards this endeavour.

ACPP 2024 Conference

On August 17, 2024, the Confed will hold a one-day, in person conference in Sydney. This is an excellent opportunity to reconnect as a psychoanalytic community. The apt Walt Whitman quote as the conference theme is emblematic of our unity and diversity as a confederation. We strongly urge you to attend so that we can reconnect as a community and move forward with our brief to establish the presence and representation of psychoanalytic psychotherapies in Australia. See more details below.

Other Events

Throughout 2023 the Confed has supported many initiatives from our membership associations including a film night held by The Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in September 2023 entitled "An encounter conversation with Associate Professor Edwin Harari OAM". We also supported research undertaken by a post graduate student conducting dream research for her master's thesis. All our member associations were approached for volunteer participation regarding working with dreams in psychotherapeutic practice.

Invitation

To stay viable as a confederation and be up to date with government initiatives and submissions we need and value your active participation. Going forward, please be in touch if your association is holding an event or initiative that would interest our members. We are keen to build a community of psychoanalytic psychotherapists and analysts across Australia.

Importantly, there is still a standing invitation to all our members from our Member Associations to attend our Board meetings held on the third Wednesday of the month. Please contact us at admin@acpp.org.au if you would like to attend so that you can understand our purpose and to contribute your ideas.



*Hiranyagarbha (Golden Cosmic Egg) India Artist: Manaku
Date: 1730CE ARAS*

Adrienne Margarian
Secretary

Confed Sub Committees News

Website Committee

The Website committee is chaired by Rise Becker with Leonie Sullivan and Adrienne Margarian as members. We meet monthly to oversee the ongoing functionality of our website.

In 2022/ 2023 a new website was commissioned. It is considered to be a portal from the confederation to its members and the wider community. It enables the organisation to communicate to the public and describe the far-reaching activities of the board and the member associations. The redesign and development of our new look website was created by Graphic Designer and Webmaster Jason Morris. The ACPP logo dictated the colour scheme. The burnt orange in the design reflects the hue of the desert and environment “our sunburnt country”. The design has movement and interest. Perhaps our website will reflect the growing possibility of the confederation and psychoanalysis.

The website illustrates that psychoanalysis, while unified in some respects, belongs to a longstanding tradition that both reflects its roots but is contemporary and sensitive to the times. This is encapsulated in the mission statement and the wide-ranging activities offered through the member associations. The Asia Pacific area is included as another region embracing psychoanalysis. The expansion of this region will further encourage growing diversity and cultural inclusion.

Our website displays key community issues such as The Voice Statement, current and past events hosted by our Membership organisations. Importantly, a registry function was created by Paul McEvoy and Jason Morris so that a search of our members via name, modality, location of practice can be performed.

We hope to expand the website to include social media plus podcasts, interviews and even opinion pieces. Currently we do have a Facebook page which is run by Paul McEvoy.

Any interested members are invited to join our subcommittee. We invite people with a particular interest in the evidence base of psychoanalytical practice who could develop and monitor this content on the website. In addition, we are also looking for people interested in social media. Finally, we invite you to visit both our website and Face Book pages so that you can provide us with feedback and suggestions. Please be in touch should your association like to place an event or have interesting content for our consideration for our website or Face Book page for 2024. We welcome your interest. Contact us at admin@acpp.org.au;

Rise Becker

Ethics and Professional Standards (EPS) Committee

The membership of the Ethics and Professional Standards (EPS) Sub-Committee of the ACPP is composed of Susan Oliver, Andrea Cone-Farran, Timothy Keogh (Chair) and Paul Foulkes.

The main work of the Sub-Committee in the last 18 months has been the derivation of draft Code of Ethics, Fitness to Practice and Complainants Procedures documents. This was followed by a round of consultations with member organisations (MAs) of the ACPP about the adequacy of these documents. These consultations (with APAS, ANZSJA, PPAA and the AAGP) have now been completed. In the process the EPS Sub-Committee also liaised with the Register Committee.

Following the consultation process final drafts have been completed by the EPS Sub-Committee before a final round of consultation (by email) on these drafts for the MAs.

Once this feedback has been received the final proposed documents will be sent to the ACPP Board to be ratified.

The Sub-Committee was also asked to meet with ANZAP to discuss their complaints and ethics documents and to provide an opinion to the Board about their suitability. This was to enable the Board to consider ANZAP's application for membership of the ACPP.

Timothy Keogh

Register Committee

We are pleased to advise that after a long gestation the Australasian Register of Psychoanalytic Practitioners is 'live' and public. The ACPP website now incorporates a searchable database of registered practitioners (<https://acpp.org.au/search-register/>). Only those who have met the relevant training and accreditation requirements, and are members of Confederation member associations, are entitled to be listed on the Register.

At the time of writing approximately 150 practitioners are listed on the Register, (which represents about half the eligible members) and the ACPP Board has determined that Registration listing and renewal will continue to be free of charge for MA clinical members.

We have long been advised that a healthily populated Register will be a useful tool in lobbying of Governments – both Federal and State – and that the more qualified practitioners on the Register, the more effective it will be. We welcome further applications to acpp.register@iinet.net.au

Paul McEvoy

Confed 2024 Conference

Preparations are proceeding well for our one-day, in person Conference on Saturday, 17 August 2024. It will be the first in person conference since the inaugural one in 2020. The Board and Committee were appreciative of the number and quality of the abstracts submitted for consideration. We believe it promises to be a stimulating experience for attendees and we hope, many interesting conversations.

The venue is likely to be at the University of Sydney, to be followed by an informal gathering at a local watering-hole to continue the discussions into the evening. As mentioned above, the Conference will be a great opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends.

Your Conference Committee are myself, Michael Moore PPAA as Chair, Rise Becker APAS, Paul McEvoy PPAA, Sue Oliver ANZSJA, and Leonie Sullivan APAS.

Michael Moore

Confed New Board Members

There have been two significant changes to the board since late 2022 with Patrick Burnett ANZSJA resigning after five years of service on the Board. Patrick played a vital role in the establishment of the Confed in the early years before its foundation. In addition, Paul Foulkes PPAA resigned after four years of service to the board. We thank them both for their hard work and tremendous input. We welcome our new members Adrienne Margarian ANZSJA and Michael Moore PPAA.

Adrienne Margarian ANZSJA

I joined the Confed board in late 2022 to replace Patrick Burnett and resumed the role of Confed secretary in early 2023. I represent ANZSJA and currently serve as the Vice President of ANZSJA. Aside from practising Jungian Psychoanalysis, I trained as an Art Therapist and am a registered Psychologist working in Annandale in NSW. I joined the Confed board because I am interested in establishing relationships with members from other associations. Additionally, I want to support the development and outreach of psychoanalytic psychotherapies Australia wide. I have a personal interest in cross cultural psychoanalysis, the emergence of psychoanalysis in Asia and the role of the body in psychoanalytic practice. When not working, I enjoy exercising, meditation, writing, reading, visiting art galleries, and watching foreign films and drama series.

Michael Moore PPAA

I am a psychiatrist and psychoanalytic psychotherapist from Sydney; I work in the private and public mental health sectors as a therapist and supervisor. I joined the Board in mid-2023 as a representative of the PPAA. My main organizational experience has been in Leadership (past-president of NSWIPP, PPAA Councillor), Training (past-chair PPAA and NSWIPP), and Education (RANZCP Advanced Training in the Psychotherapies, Conference organiser for PPAA).

As well as being active as a teacher, I have academic interests related to our field of work: they could largely be described as considering the relationships within our discipline (diverse theory and practice) as well as our interdisciplinary relationships (philosophy and science in particular). These interests are reflected in some of my published work. Less academic but no less important to me, is a developing interest in group dynamics, and how to create and maintain healthy cultures in our professional homes.

The creation of the ACP, after a lengthy gestation, was therefore very much in line with my interests. The potential benefits of closer relations between the four member organisations, complemented by an outward-looking stance of the ACP itself, will hopefully emerge over time. I was keen to support the ACP's development and since joining the Board I note the serious thinking taking place about a wide range of issues – e.g. from registration matters and lobbying (identity, political) to promoting our evidence-base and how to support the membership (scientific, cultural) and so on. It has been a shame face-to-face conferences were derailed by the pandemic – I am the coordinator for an in-person conference this year in Sydney.

Community Building: We need you!

As a body representing psychoanalytic perspectives, we can become part of organisations and networks. We belong to Mental Health Australia, who are consulted by the Commonwealth Department of Health. This membership is important to find out about inquiries, reviews, and other opportunities to put our point of view in the public domain. It is also an opportunity to network with other organisations in the mental health field so they gain a better understand of what we can offer. If we are to make the best use of networking, we need to attend meetings and get to know the players in the field. Then we can consolidate the relationships we need to participate in working parties and contributions to documents and policies.

This takes time and energy. It may involve travelling to Canberra or other cities. But without this investment, people in the field will not know who we are or what we represent, and we will lack a sensitive understanding pf the context for issues arising which risks our contributions being seen as out of touch and unrealistic.

There are many opportunities to contribute to reviews, inquiries, and research. We have written eight submissions and letters on various issues which are all documented on our website, under About Us/Submissions. However, there have been a number of opportunities we only became aware of after the closing date or so close to it that no one had the time to prepare a submission. To remedy that, we need a working party or sub committee to take on monitoring for opportunities to make submissions and to have a network from the MA's to help with writing and maintaining our data base of research and evidence up to date.

We also need people interested in the organisational dimension of mental health services, to attend meetings, get to know people and learn about the social and political systems we are operating in. With this background we will formulate better contributions which will be timely, relevant, and creative bringing the value of psychoanalytic thinking to the community's awareness. The Board needs the support of various committees such as described above, and individuals willing to take on specific roles such as to represent the Confed at Mental Health Australia or other meetings. The Board can delegate roles to people interested in doing this work and support their expenses from our budget.

Our advice is that governments and ministers are interested in any group or organisation that demonstrates an understanding of a problem area, has knowledge and information that is relevant and proposals to address the problem in an economical way. To do this, we need to understand how governments and their departments think and their priorities. We can only do this if we can take up opportunities to interact with them and become known.

To promote and develop psychoanalytic practice in Australia, we need your participation. Please approach us if you would like to volunteer your time and expertise to help on any of our sub committees regarding the conference, ethics, establishing our social media presence and website or to work on a submission to government. We welcome and value your interest, creativity, and enthusiasm in these endeavours.

As importantly, any ideas, contacts, leads or personal associations with State or Federal government in relation to submissions are much appreciated. We look forward to hearing from you at admin@acpp.org.au

Rob Gordon – President

Adrienne Margarian – Secretary
