

alteration to the way psychologists are trained. New initiatives and workforces are being developed which pose both threats and opportunities for psychologists.

This Forum will examine these critical issues and the impact they are likely to have on psychologists' practice and the psychology workforce. Suggestions for major changes to the role of psychologists, their practice, and their education and training will be discussed and participants encouraged to contribute ideas towards action the APS could take regarding these matters.

Concurrent Session 11C, Ballroom 2, 3 October 2014, 10:30 – 12:00pm

Professional Practice Forum (Paper #86)

Learning through complex case studies of culturally and linguistically diverse clients

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Background: The 2011 census data indicates that 24.6% of Australia's population was born overseas, most commonly from UK, New Zealand, China, India and Italy, and 43% of residents have at least one overseas parent. The number of citizens speaking Arabic and Mandarin Chinese has increased significantly. These demographic trends present a challenge to Australian psychologists, whose traditional western education usually includes little training in cross-cultural communication and different cultural constructs of mental health, the result of which can be a mismatch of psychological interventions with cross-cultural beliefs and the extreme conditions of some clients' environmental backgrounds. This is further complicated by the remoteness of some practising psychologists. As psychologists working in a range of settings, we come across culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients. We deal with a range of complex issues associated with the life cycle, such as acculturation stress, intercultural communication, interpersonal difficulties and role conflicts. Further, as psychologists working across cultures, we encounter challenges in the areas of assessment, supervision, multicultural teams, and coaching. The focus of the Psychology and Cultures Interest Group at the APS is on multicultural issues and the many complexities that this brings to our practice as psychologists.

Aim: This Professional Practice Forum sponsored by the Psychology and Cultures Interest Group aims to educate the attendees about the complex issues that CALD clients may bring and the culturally appropriate and sensitive ways of addressing the issues of these clients.

Methods: Four case studies dealing with the complex issues and treatment of CALD clients will be presented. Cases presented will demonstrate CALD issues associated with aging, acculturation stress, couple distress and difficulties of working in organisational settings. Presentations will be followed by discussion.

Conclusion: It is expected that this interactive session will inform the attendees about the multicultural issues of CALD clients and the adapted interventions that can yield good results for their clients.

Concurrent Session 11D, Ballroom 3, 3 October 2014, 10:30am – 12:00pm

Symposium (Paper #181)

Psychosocial recovery from natural disasters and lessons learned from the Tasmania bushfires 2013

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Following several recent large scale bushfire disasters in Australia (Black Saturday 2009; Dunalley fires, Tasmania, 2013), much work has been done by experts in the disaster field to research, develop and deliver psychosocial recovery programs to promote coping and accelerate recovery among disaster-affected community members. In this symposium we hear the results of four different studies in bushfire recovery. The first two papers focus on the more recent Tasmanian fires from two very different perspectives. In the first, the author (from UTAS) reports the results of her study about the utility and effectiveness of social media during the response and early recovery phase after the Dunalley bushfires. This study draws on her personal experience of the outstanding success of a