

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Tuesday 15 July 2014

A no-win situation? Managing risk in mental health practice

The University of Tasmania will hold two public forums this week that will explore the complex ethical issues around responding to risks in mental health policy and practice.

Dr Sonya Stanford, (University of Tasmania's Social Work program) said the focus of the forums is particularly relevant given that mental health is a "significant social, health and economic problem within the Tasmanian context."

"For example, overall, Tasmania's suicide rate is the second highest in Australia," Dr Stanford said.

"Dealing with issues of risk in mental health practice poses significant challenges to practitioners, managers and policy makers. The challenges of risk are both pragmatic and ethical."

Dr Stanford will be joined by visiting scholars Professor Jim Campbell from the University of London, and Dr Anne-Maree Sawyer from La Trobe University. Both are leaders in mental health research.

Professor Jim Campbell will speak about the mental health needs of survivors of political conflict. His talk will explore the international research that has been done on this topic and he will consider the challenges that policy makers and practitioners face when responding to people's mental health needs.

Dr Anne-Maree Sawyer is a lecturer in Sociology and she has worked extensively on projects that have explored the way risk management policies and procedures have been taken up and translated into practice by community-based services. In her presentation, Dr Sawyer explores the ethical tensions and dilemmas that 'risk work' presents to social workers and other practitioners across different policy and organisational contexts.

Forums

Launceston

When: 10-11.45am, TODAY Tuesday 15 July 2014

Where: University Newnham campus, Building A, ground floor, Room A060

Hobart

When: 10-11.45am, Wednesday 16 July 2014

Where: University Sandy Bay campus, Law Building, Level 2, Room 223 – Lecture Theatre 3

To register and for more information, visit:

<https://secure.utas.edu.au/staff/news/articles/a-no-win-situation-managing-risk-in-mental-health-practice>

The forums are supported by the AASW Tasmanian Branch, the Mental Health Council of Tasmania, the University's Institute for the Study of Social Change and the University's Division of the Provost.

Information released by:

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