

Guest Address: Professor Michael Daffern

With so much uncertainty about what works for whom, why don't we encourage choice?

Significant advances have been made over the last few decades in how to work effectively with people who have offended. Rehabilitation models have emerged, risk and needs assessment instruments have been developed and psychological 'offence focussed' treatments have been developed. Although the responsivity principle is widely known, rarely are people who are deemed to require rehabilitation given the choice to pursue their own goals and methods for change. This presentation will explore this idea and consider where choices could be offered and the potential benefits and risks of providing choice.



Michael Daffern is Professor of Clinical Forensic Psychology and Director of the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. He is also a Consultant Principal Psychologist with the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare). He began his career as a psychologist in the New South Wales Department of Corrective Services in 1992 and he has worked in general and forensic mental health services since this time. He divides his time between research, teaching and clinical practice. His research interests focus on the assessment and treatment of people who have offended.