

## **44<sup>th</sup> APS Annual Conference – Rural & Remote Interest Group Presentations**

### **N07/09 Disc 1 - Issues in promoting emotional and social wellbeing and psychological services in the remote communities – Cost: \$15 Inc GST & P/H**

BRADBURY, HAYTHORNTHWAITE, JOHNSON, CAMPBELL, BIN BAKAR,

This forum will address two main issues. The first is the development of grassroots programs of social and emotional wellbeing that can be provided to people who live and work in the remote communities in the Kimberley region, and the second is to discuss how best practice can be achieved by psychologists who work in the remote communities, and what support from the Society can improve retention and prevent professional burnout. It is hoped that participants will also discuss their experience in remote areas. While there are many differing characteristics, there are some general issues which emerge, primarily to do with breaking the cycles of despair and helplessness and empowerment in essentially non-literate remote cultures. The expectations of professionally trained workforces for literacy to break barriers are a long-term goal: the short term one is survival of the communities and those who work with them. The forum welcomes the contribution of Dr Mark Bin Bakar, also known as Mary G. He is a Kitja and his skin is that of a Jowandi man. He is currently national Chairman of The Stolen Generation. He has a regular radio program and is known throughout the region as a musician and social commentator whose focus is to promote social and emotional well being. His way of reaching the communities, giving hope and inspiration, is to perform as Mary G, an indigenous social sage, much the same as Barry Humphries started out. Mary G is a character who has significant potential to generate psychological messages and the promote programs for the isolated communities which allow expression of feeling in an essentially non-literate world. Through performance, the precursors of dysfunctional behaviour can begin to be addressed and empowerment through mastery in a non-verbal way can be achieved. Mark has a long-term plan to harness the talent in the communities to develop greater self efficacy. Respect and professional support for his work though his inspiration and creativity is such that he stands alone in communicating at many levels. His recent address to The United Nations in Geneva on Human Rights attests to his strength and vision.

### **N07/09 Disc 2 - North of Capricorn: Perspectives from research and practice in the outback – Cost: \$15 Inc GST & P/H**

BRADBURY, WALKER, PAPANDREA, EDWARDS,

This forum will offer a range of perspectives and insights from practitioners and researchers, raise questions and unanswered dilemmas and offer insights into current plans for the future management of the outback and psychological services required. The purpose will be to allow an opportunity for sharing of new knowledge and insights, from both the desert and the regional towns and cities of northern Australia. Included will be a keynote speaker who will describe the formal planning and discussion being held about the future of our outback and desert. Presentations from researchers and practitioners of rural and remote psychology have been invited and it is anticipated that new findings will be presented. Further to the success of the 2008 Hobart forum and the DVD made of our presenters, a recording will again be planned so as to provide opportunity for non-attendees to share in these important presentations.