

Media, Culture and Mental Health

The first “*Let’s Talk Culture*” Seminar for 2010

Date and Time:	Thursday, 18 March, 9:30am – 12:30pm
Venue:	Theatrette, Department of Health 189 Royal Street, East Perth
RSVP:	By 15 March 2010 to Bernadette.Wright@health.wa.gov.au
Enquiries:	Gill Van der Watt Tel: 9224 0289
Video Conference Booking:	Bernadette.Wright@health.wa.gov.au
Cost:	Nil
Certificate of Attendance:	Available on request

Parking and Transport Details: Parking available opposite the Department of Health in Royal Street or at Moore Street Multistorey carpark. Costs apply. Trains run approximately every 10 – 15 minutes. The best station to stop at is Claisebrook or Mclver. Free CAT service is also available. For information on departures and arrivals, times for trains and buses phone TRANSPERTH on 13 62 13.

The ‘*Let’s Talk Culture*’ seminar series aims to assist mental health clinicians and service providers across all sectors to work confidently in a culturally competent way with clients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The seminars are jointly organised by the **UWA Community, Culture and Mental Health Unit**, and **South Metropolitan Area Health Service, Mental Health**.

The seminar presentations and panel debate will explore the following issues:

- **Social roles and responsibilities of media in reporting mental health issues**
- **Culturally sensitive reporting of mental health problems in specific ethnic and cultural groups**
- **Media reporting and stigma, fear and prejudices about mental illness**
- **Legal aspects of media reporting about mental health problems**

The seminar will be chaired by A/Professor Jon Laugharne from the UWA Community, Culture and Mental Health Unit.

Aleksander Janca, Professor and Head of UWA School of Psychiatry, will moderate the panel debate.

Future seminar dates in the 2010 series: 19 August, 25 November (9.30am – 12.30pm).

About the participants:

Patti Chong was born and educated in Malaysia and came to Perth in 1973. She studied law at the University of Western Australia and graduated in 1979 with a Bachelor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Laws in 1980. Patti was articled to the Director of Legal Aid and admitted to practice in 1981. Her career path has included positions at the Australian Government Solicitor's Office, State Director of Public Prosecutions Office as a Crown Prosecutor, and prosecuting a range of criminal offences in the Supreme, District and Children's courts. In 2004 Patti was appointed the inaugural General Counsel to the Corruption and Crime Commission and held this appointment until 2005, when she returned to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. Patti has been in private practice since 2006 and is a member on numerous boards including the Chung Wah Association and Dyslexia-Speld Foundation.



Marnie McKimmie is a senior writer for *Health and Medicine*, the weekly supplement that appears in Wednesday's edition of *The West Australian*. She has been employed at the newspaper for over twenty years, and has been reporting on health issues for much of this time. She has garnered national awards for her writing on various subjects, including suicide prevention, obesity, breast cancer and the issue of young children acting as carers. Mental health issues have featured regularly in her writing for the paper

Sharon Greenock originally trained and practised as a mental health nurse. Broadcasting is her second career. Sharon arrived from the UK in 1990 and in 2001, enrolled as a student at the WA Academy of Performing Arts. This gave her the opportunity to undertake a placement at 720 ABC Perth. She sees her two careers as being closely related, as both are about people and their stories. Sharon was the Senior Producer at the 720 Drive Show with Russell Woolf, as well as tackling the wee hours of Saturday morning to present Early Mornings on 720 ABC Perth and ABC Western Australia.

