



## Panelist Biographies

### **Dr Marshall Watson**

*Psychiatrist*

SA

Marshall Watson is an Aboriginal man and descendant of the Noongar people of the South West of WA. He is a child and adolescent forensic psychiatrist in SA. He sits on the Youth Justice Board of WA and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group. Professionally his interests include: complex childhood trauma and offending, aggression and violence, juvenile sex offenders and problematic offending behaviours champion change in their communities through the development of innovative solutions.



### **Dr Jeffrey Nelson**

*Clinical Psychologist*

QLD

Jeff Nelson is a clinical psychologist working in the North Queensland region in private practice; in boarding schools that cater specifically for Indigenous students; and with men in the correctional services system.

Jeff is an



Aboriginal man from Cairns and works predominantly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients. His focus on working with this cohort has allowed the development, in his

opinion, of a range of effective strategies targeting emotional regulation and positive decision making in environments that are sometimes stubbornly resistant to change. A majority of his work in schools involves using assessment to inform systems and family-based intervention with intention to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people equitable access to opportunity and to enjoy positive life outcomes. young people within a local youth centre for 10 years. She has been heavily involved in the setup of the Bondi Junction headspace and has been working there since it opened last year. Her main practice is in Paddington where she practices “cradle to grave” medicine with a wonderful group of colleagues. Karen enjoys teaching registrars, is on a few working parties and helps out at educational events from time to time.



## **Julie Tongs (OAM)**

*CEO Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health  
Service – Narrabundah ACT*

Julie Tongs is a  
Wiradjuri woman  
and has worked  
in Aboriginal  
affairs for over 35



years. She has occupied the position of CEO at  
the ACT Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health  
Service since 1997 and NACCHO Director for  
the same period of time.

Included in her working career are the positions  
of Aboriginal Liaison Officer at the Woden Valley  
Hospital, and Assistant Advisor to the  
Honourable Robert Tickner MP, the former  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Affairs.

This experience has enable Julie to appreciate  
the needs of the Canberra and region Aboriginal  
and Torres Strait Islander Community to the  
extent that she has developed a health service  
which is directed by Community needs, is  
holistic and focused on closing the gap between  
Aboriginal and non-Indigenous people's health.  
Julie's leadership in best practice and innovative  
solutions in service delivery are examples of  
how local economic solutions can be applied  
nationally.

## **Dr Mark Wenitong**

*Medical Advisor  
QLD*

Dr Mark Wenitong  
(Prof Adjunct QUT) is  
the senior medical  
advisor for  
Apunipima, Cape  
York Health Council.



He continues some clinical work, research, and  
health planning across Cape York. He is  
involved in policy at both national and state  
level. He currently sits on the Queensland  
Mental Health Commission Advisory Council  
and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Mental Health Leadership Group, The  
IPAG (national Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Implementation Plan Advisory Group),  
the board of AITHM, chairs the Lowitja Institute  
research group on health systems, and is  
involved in several research projects.



**Facilitator: Dr Mary Emeleus**

*General practitioner & Psychotherapist  
QLD*

Mary has a mixed psychotherapy/GP role at headspace Cairns, part salaried/part private practice which includes seeing clients for medical, psychological medicine and psychotherapy appointments, and participating in peer supervision, intake and case review activities. She works one day per week in a private general practice, and has recently developed a keen interest in developing and teaching counselling skills courses for GPs and consulting in this field, as well as a small amount of Medical Educator work visiting GP registrars in their teaching practices. In 2016, this role has expanded to include monthly visits to Mt Isa!



Her other professional interests include lifestyle medicine, adolescent mental health, early psychosis intervention, psychological and social approaches to psychosis, and treatment of complex trauma. Her psychotherapy work is eclectic, with low-intensity CBT, EMDR therapy, Psychodynamic, Jungian and Existential influences.

Memberships include Australian Society for Psychological Medicine ([www.aspm.org.au](http://www.aspm.org.au)) (president-elect and principal author of Level 2

FPS training program), RACGP NFSI Psychological Medicine Network, Rural Doctors Association of Australia, and the International Society for Psychological and Social Approaches to Psychosis (ISPS) ([www.isps.org.au](http://www.isps.org.au)).