

**E-News: APRIL 2021**  
**Division of Professional Practice (Division 17)**

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**March-April: 'Monthly Snapshot'**

Our monthly E-News provides an opportunity for our Division to reflect on key events of the past month and the professional implications of these.

- **The World in the Time of COVID-19**

As we write (22.3.21), the WHO Coronavirus Disease 'dashboard' indicates that there are now **122,524,424 confirmed cases** of COVID-19, including **2,703,620 deaths** world-wide (compared to 22.2.21: 111,102,016 confirmed cases; 2,462,911 deaths; 25.1.21: 99,363,697 confirmed cases; 2,135,959 deaths; 28.12.20: 79,673,994 confirmed cases; 1,761,381 deaths; 23.11.20: 57,882,183 cases, 1,377,395 deaths; 29.10.20: 43,766,712 cases, 1,163,459 deaths; 26.7.20: 15,581,009 cases, 635,173 deaths; 20.6.20: 8,385,440 cases, 450,686 deaths; 26.4.20: 2.8million cases, 200,000 deaths).

Case numbers and deaths are again increasing for the first time in six weeks, with 1/3 of the increase in Europe and the rest accounted for by the USA, Brazil, Turkey and India.

As of **18 March 2021**, a total of **392,609,534 vaccine doses** have been administered. More than half of Israel is now fully vaccinated, whilst more than one-third of the UK's and almost one-quarter of the US's population have had at least one shot. However, the roll-out in continental Europe and Asia remains slow, partly due to the newly-labelled "*Vaccine Hesitancy*" in many of these countries. New surges / spikes are again being seen in many countries: India (where experts say poor safety protocols are driving the surge), Italy, France (now into another month-long lock-down), New Guinea and other places. Some hypothesise that new variants could be a reason, but this hasn't been established yet.

- See: WHO: [https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAJaiQobChMkPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N\\_w2GEAAYASAAEgKQm\\_D\\_BwE](https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAJaiQobChMkPFX79Px7QIV2w0rCh2N_w2GEAAYASAAEgKQm_D_BwE)
- Saul Eslake: Coronavirus Impact Chart Pack for week ended 20th March: [Coronavirus Impact Chart Pack 2021-03-20.pdf](#)
- 'The countries that nailed it and what we can learn from them': <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-56455030>
- For summaries of the unfolding situation during 2020, see previous Division 17 E-News editions.

**Other issues** have, as always, emerged during the past month in addition to those relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic (outlined above) – all of direct relevance to us as professional psychological practitioners.

Salient amongst these are:

**Disaster-preparedness:**

As we write, Australia is experiencing massive floods with 10 million people across every state and territory (except Western Australia) now under severe weather warnings. Sydney's massive Warragamba Dam is overflowing downstream and torrential rains continue to pour and are predicted well into this week, with bridges already under and properties, livestock and vast expanses of the out-back now adversely affected (See: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-56485246>)

Those in most affected areas struggled with massive bushfires exactly a year ago, on the back of a long and severe drought – and now floods.

These events raise again the issue of **Resources for Disaster Preparedness** - as did the floods in Houston, Texas in September, 2019 - which we addressed in our **December, 2019 Newsletter**:

See:

- [https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/climate\\_change\\_and\\_disaster\\_preparedness-how\\_should\\_we\\_respond\\_link.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/climate_change_and_disaster_preparedness-how_should_we_respond_link.pdf)
- <https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1874/2ff3efef91cb4499a2432af2e34a2a5f.pdf>

**For new/additional/later resources see:**

- <https://www.psychology.org.au/for-the-public/Psychology-topics/Disasters>
- [https://www.psychology.org.au/for-the-public/Psychology-topics/Disasters/Floods?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=210323\\_NSW%20floods\\_NSW%20and%20ACT%20members&utm\\_content=210323\\_NSW%20floods\\_NSW%20and%20ACT%20members+CID\\_d153824c40e4a209fdd0584662ae4ba7&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Read%20now](https://www.psychology.org.au/for-the-public/Psychology-topics/Disasters/Floods?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=210323_NSW%20floods_NSW%20and%20ACT%20members&utm_content=210323_NSW%20floods_NSW%20and%20ACT%20members+CID_d153824c40e4a209fdd0584662ae4ba7&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20now)

**Sexual assault/sexual violence against and harassment of women:**

The past month has seen the emergence of this 'live and ongoing issue' in Australia, the UK and other places - with the recent shocking murder of a young woman in London allegedly by a policeman, the murder of 8 women of Asian descent in Atlanta in March, and the emergence of allegations of rape and a 'culture' of inappropriate behaviour/sexual misconduct in the Australian Federal Parliament.

As is the case globally, psychological practitioners need to be professionally skilled in dealing with these issues, as the experience and incidence of sexual trauma in and harassment of clients with mental health issues/mental illness is high.

**Relevant articles in relation to these issues:**

- **Health Practitioners on the front line of sexual assault:**  
SEXUAL assault and child sexual assault are far more common than our community has been prepared to acknowledge, and it is critical that health practitioners are there to listen, hear, believe and validate the lived experiences of their patients: <https://insightplus.mja.com.au/2021/9/health-practitioners-on-frontline-of-realities-of-sexual-assault/>
- **The recent event in the UK:** <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/vigils-held-across-the-uk-for-murdered-woman-sarah-everard/13247998>
- **Relevant information on the Australian situation:**
  - **The debate around mental illness, trauma and memory:** a controversial professional issue in which the dominant biomedical paradigm of mental illness can result in the discrediting of women's evidence as a consequence of being labelled 'ill'.  
*"There has been recent media coverage of an Australian woman's allegation of sexual assault, against a current politician, taking place over 30 years ago. The coverage included some of the woman's own writing, and perhaps disordered thinking. This has raised the issue of the credibility of people with mental health issues - particularly if there has been trauma, and an affected memory. What does research and evidence tell us about complex psychiatric problems? Guest: Assoc Prof Liz Scott; Psychiatry, University of Notre Dame and the Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney; Host: Dr Norman Swan"*

See: <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/healthreport/sexual-assault-and-trauma/13248586>

- **The Back Story:** <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/womens-movement-history-the-backstory-with-isobel-roe/13247768>: Women march on Parliament House and in cities around Australia, demanding action on male violence against women. Women have been taking to the streets since the late 1800s, fighting for the right to vote, to equality, to drink with men at bars, to protest sexual violence and more.
- [https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2021/03/bst\\_20210315\\_0645.mp3](https://abcmedia.akamaized.net/rn/podcast/2021/03/bst_20210315_0645.mp3)
- <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/zali-steggall-calls-legislative-change-march4justice-protests/13247892>
- <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/alleged-rape-protests-take-toll-politics-with-michelle-grattan/13247952>
- **The issue of consent:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrXVavnQ>

### **Division Activity:**

- **Our Executive Team is commencing regular zoom meetings this year** (from 27.2.21) to enhance the activities of the Division of Professional Practice.
- **Robyn Vines (Division 17 President) and Susan McDaniel (President-Elect):** attended an IAAP Division Presidents' meeting on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>/Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March in which three key IAAP priorities were discussed:

#### **Three Projects: for 2021:**

- **The “Each One Reach One” campaign:**  
The idea came from Division 1 – initially for Division 1 only but now for the whole IAAP, and aims to:
    - Increase membership and facilitate interaction among psychologists across the world
    - What? Why? And How?
      - **What?** Research-based: setting a goal; developing personal connections: one person reaching out to another – doubling the membership.  
Game-based: current members ‘win’ if they sign up one new person”  
Aiming: to create a positive pull for new members
      - **Why?** Goal is to:
        - increase connections and facilitate interaction around the world, based on one person reaching out to one or more people
        - Increase diversity: reach around the world and be inclusive

**Specific goal: 101 new members in 101 days (to celebrate IAAP being 101 yrs old).**  
**Dates:** April 12<sup>th</sup> to July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Member incentives and prizes for successful outcome: playing the game (see powerpoint)
  - **How?** Toolkit: different recruitment tools will be provided: e.g. personalised emails: highlighting benefits of membership, etc.
- **“The Young Psychologists Conference: early career marathon:**  
(An initiative of Pedro Altungy and Pedro Neves)  
**Theme: “Integrating Research and Practice”:**
  - Aims to encourage young psychologists to submit abstracts
  - There will be awards for the best presentations and digital certificates for all presentations
  - Division Presidents: ‘Each One Reach One’: invite PhD students and ECPs to submit
  - Goals: to enable young psychologists to find a community of people at the same stage of their careers
  - Senior people to be mentors for the conference

- No fees for the conference; admission is Association dues: all young/ECP members welcome
- **The campaign for Affiliate Organizations:**  
**Aim:**
  - To encourage other associations across the globe to join as “Affiliates”. (e.g. any organisation that has contacts with psychology and can benefit from association with psychologists – strict assessment of eligibility will be provided)  
<https://iaapsy.org/about/affiliate-membership/>
- **Further idea: How to facilitate the Divisions to work together and create more projects:**  
**Ideas can be put on the billboard as follows:**  
<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1ohcr0jSR6looNi-nfaOxe6epN1WsZ4Z74XLeJP-xso8/edit?usp=sharing>

For those interested in assisting with the “Each One Reach One” member recruitment initiative, the following table outlines membership fees for each category and geographic location.

	1 YEAR	2 YEAR	4 YEAR
<b>TYPE A</b> <i>high-income countries</i>	\$80	\$160 \$120	\$320 \$224
<b>TYPE B</b> <i>upper-middle-income countries</i>	\$70	\$140 \$105	\$280 \$196
<b>TYPE C</b> <i>lower-income countries</i>	\$26	\$52 \$39	\$104 \$73
<b>EARLY CAREER</b> <i>psychologists worldwide in the first two-years of their career</i>	\$50	\$100 \$75	
<b>STUDENTS</b> <i>students worldwide</i>	\$15	\$30 \$20	
<b>SIOP and EAWOP members</b>	\$70	\$140 \$105	

Please let us know if you are willing to assist with any of these initiatives.

### **International Congresses:**

The status of the **ICP: International Congress of Psychology in Prague: July, 2021** (postponed from July, 2020) remains unclear.

Our Division team will be present (via zoom) a double-symposium (accepted by the ICP committee) entitled: ***"The role of psychology in integrated mental health care: an international perspective"***.

### ***Brief Description of the Symposium:***

The symposium will provide an overview of current progress in integrated psychological service delivery in the primary care setting in a number of western countries: USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Norway and the United Kingdom. These integrated services attempt to redress the ongoing “medicalisation of unhappiness” across the western world and the sub-optimal care provided in which medication is still frequently the first (and often only) treatment of choice, leaving the crucial psychosocial dimensions of mental and general health under-treated. Integrated primary mental and general health service delivery has evolved over the past twenty years to include evidence-based psychological interventions in the primary care setting. Symposium

participants will canvas progress in a number of different areas in their specific countries and provide an update internationally on key issues relevant to this mode of practice. All welcome to attend!

**Please contact us if you have items to share, questions to ask, ideas to put forward in relation to Division 17 activities.**



**Robyn F. Vines, Ph.D.  
President Division of Professional Practice**

**(April, 2021)**

**Division Website:** <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

**Division Newsletters:**

- **October, 2020:**  
[https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div\\_17\\_october\\_newsletter.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/2044/div_17_october_newsletter.pdf)
- **December, 2019: (End of Year Summary: 2019)**  
<https://iaap.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/CB562312D9AFD69D2540EF23F30FEDED>

**Division 17 E-News Bulletins:**

- **Link to Division Website:** <https://iaapsy.org/divisions/division17/>

**UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED CARE INITIATIVE:**

[https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/undoc\\_integratinghealthintopriarycare\\_pdf.pdf](https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/files/1222/undoc_integratinghealthintopriarycare_pdf.pdf)