

ANZAPPL

Australian and New Zealand
Association of Psychiatry,
Psychology and Law

www.anzappl.org

**VENUE : Public Defenders Meeting Room,
Level 13, 175 Liverpool Street Sydney
On 2 December, 2010
at 6.00p.m. for a 6.30p.m start**

**Seminar with Professor Louise Newman BA Hons., MBBS Hons, PhD,
FRANZCP, Cert Child Psych RANZCP,
Director
Monash University Centre for Developmental Psychiatry & Psychology**

**TITLE: SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA – THE PSYCHOLOGICAL
IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION**

The Australian Government response to the asylum seeker issue is shaped by an attempt to manage deep-seated community anxiety. The asylum-seeker, regardless of country of origin or history of trauma, is both feared and blamed as a threatening object. The policy of mandatory detention in offshore locations, detention of children, freezes of processing and indefinite containment violates several United Nations Conventions and directly contributes to psychological suffering and mental disorder. Whilst the initial Research findings (Steele, Silove & Newman) in this area were not accepted by Government, we now have a greater understanding of the psychological needs of asylum seekers but still have reluctance to implement professional recommendations. The Detention Expert Health Advisory Group (DeHAG) (Chair, Professor Louise Newman) acts as an independent advisory body to Department of Immigration and has developed policy and training to raise awareness of the needs of asylum seekers for trauma screening, comprehensive mental health assessment and psychological support. These approaches stress that detention environments can be more supportive but should not be seen as sites for mental health treatment. The legacy of mandatory detention in terms of mental disorder remains a serious moral concern.

To Register for this free event, please contact Katherine Johnson on 0421 321 276 or email on johnson.katherinep@gmail.com
Attendance will attract one CPD point per hour in the Substantive Law strand.