

FACILITATOR



Geoff Sirmai 'Half-watchdog, half-wit' Geoff has, in recent times, traded in his high profile journalist and consumer advocate 'hat' for one as full-time performer and arts publicist. Geoff has a long-time association with *Renaissance Players* early music group, and *Theatresports*, and is well known to the community as founding director of the AUJS revues, Kasher Theatresports and countless revues, spiels and comedy debates. He has been on the executive of many communal organisations including the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies, Maccabi, Theatron, the Sydney Jewish Choral Society, Tikken Olam, Emanuel Synagogue and The Shalom Institute.

PANEL MEMBERS (seating order)



Rabbi Michael Gourarie is the founder and director of Bina, an adult educational organization and Rabbi of the Shtiebell Synagogue. He was educated in the U.S and received his Masters of Education in Sydney. He is known as a passionate educator who lectures on a wide range of topics with special emphasis on personal growth and self development including self esteem, communication and relationship building.



Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch, APM joined the NSW Police force in 1980 and in August, 2010 was appointed Commander, Central Metropolitan Region. He is the Police Corporate spokesperson for Domestic and Family Violence and represents NSW in various related agencies. He was recently bestowed an award for "Excellence in Policing for Women Initiatives" and was awarded the Australian Police Medal for distinguished service in 2007. He is a White Ribbon Ambassador.



Dr Leslie Laing is a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney who has practised social work in the fields of community health, child and family mental health and child protection. She developed statewide training programs for health workers responding to abuse while she was Director of the Education Centre Against Violence. In 2000 she established the Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse at the UNSW.



Claire Vernon began as Chief Executive Officer at JewishCare at the end of January 2007. She came to the non-government sector after many years in senior executive roles in NSW Government Departments. Much of Claire's career has been working in the area of responding to violence against women. She has managed a 24 hour Sexual Assault Service, implemented the first NSW Health Domestic Violence Policy, was the Manager of the NSW Strategy to Reduce Violence Against Women and worked for five years in NSW Attorney Generals Department as the Director of Victims Services.



Justice Stephen Rothman AM commenced practice at the bar in NSW in 1982, was appointed senior council in 1995, then a Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW in 2005. Amongst other things, he has presided over bail appeals, major criminal matters and has sat as a judge in the Court of Criminal Appeal. In 2007 he was awarded membership of the Order of Australia (AM) for his work in the Jewish community including presidency of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Moriah College and the NSW Jewish Board of Education. He continues to contribute his time to Jewish communal affairs.



Dr Bronwyn Gould AM has over 30 years experience in General Practice, with a major focus on working with vulnerable young people. She has contributed to research in several child death related enquires and has served as a member of many advisory bodies including a term as chair of the Australia Council for Children and Parenting. She worked with DoCS delivering training about recognition of inflicted injuries in childhood and the impact of adversity on brain development. In 1998 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for services to youth.



Margot Beach joined The Benevolent Society in 2007 after working in Government Departments both in Queensland and New South Wales for 28 years. She has worked in a variety of positions including senior management in both child protection and disability services. She is currently seconded to the position of General Manager – Operations responsible for all child and family services, mental health services, ageing and community care services in both NSW and Qld.



Dani Klein is a clinical psychologist at an Eastern Suburbs private school. She has considerable experience working with adolescents gained over 20 years and was clinical team leader at Waverley Action Youth Services, Bondi Beach for 10 years. There she designed and implemented programs dealing with sex, sexuality, self esteem, drugs and alcohol. She regularly conducts lectures for parents on topics related to parenting teenagers.



Andrew King is employed as the Men's Services Manager for MensLine Australia (crisis support services). He is a specialist trainer in groupwork who trains professionals throughout Australia in 'working with men'. He has published a range of academic articles and coordinated a centre providing services to fathers



Rabbi Mendel Kastel is CEO of the Jewish House Crisis Centre, a non-denominational, not for profit organization that offers counselling services and other interventions for people in crisis. Rabbi Kastel is one of the founders of Point Zero, an organization which provides a safe space where young people can congregate as well as being a founder of J Junction, a Jewish dating service; He is chaplain for hospitals, the NSW Police Force, Maccabi NSW and Reddam House College .