The RANZCP Faculty of Forensic Psychiatry Victorian Subcommittee welcomed

**Professor Anne Buist**

Presenting an educational lecture on

**Infanticide and Child Abuse: Who and Why?**

This talk will look at current knowledge of perpetrators of infanticide (including neonaticide) and child abuse (especially 0-3 years), and the association with mental illness.

Many of these cases are a result of a complex mixture of psychosocial disadvantage, attachment issues and childhood abuse in the parent, and where current mental illness is only a part of understanding the assessment of risk and cause.

Examples will be explored and questions asked about psychiatric assessment and evidence given in these cases. How does the psychiatrist present a clear picture of “grey” to a court that is more inclined to black and white?

**About Professor Anne Buist**

Anne Buist is the Chair of Women’s Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, based at Austin Health, and has over 30 years clinical and research experience in perinatal psychiatry including being director of mother-baby units for much of this time. She continues to work with Protective Services and the legal system in cases of abuse, kidnapping, infanticide and murder. She teaches, supervises a perinatal outreach service and provides one off second opinions for management of perinatal disorders and opinions for the court on these matters but no longer takes on new patients.

Professor Buist also write psychological thrillers, the Natalie King, forensic psychiatrist, trilogy; Medea’s Curse, Dangerous to Know and This I Would Kill For, which includes infanticide, narcissism, child custody and sexual abuse. A stand-alone psychological thriller with a perinatal psychologist heroine, The Long Shadow, was released in April 2020.

Other fiction includes Two Steps Forward, (a feel-good story of starting again, set on the Camino de Santiago) co-written with Graeme Simsion and they are currently writing a sequel, Two Steps Onwards, set on the Chemin d’Assise and the Via Francigena, between Cluny and Rome.

**Date:**  
Tuesday 16 June 2020