

Flinders Law Research Seminar Series

Dr Astrid Birgden, Consultant Forensic Psychologist. Just Forensic & Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor
Deakin University

Offender Rehabilitation: A Framework for Balancing Offender Risk and Offender Needs

ABSTRACT:

Offenders have human rights; offenders are both rights-violators and rights-holders requiring legal actors as duty bearers to balance managing offender risk with meeting offender need. Therapeutic jurisprudence is a legal theory that analyses the law, correctional procedures, and the role of legal actors to determine whether the law is having a negative or positive effect on well-being. Therapeutic jurisprudence can assist correctional systems and correctional staff (as legal actors) to apply the law to ensure offender well-being. Dr Birgden has developed and applied an offender rehabilitation framework based on therapeutic jurisprudence principles and two offender rehabilitation models- the Risk-Need-Responsivity model (designed to manage offender risk) and the Good Lives Model (designed to meet offender needs). Dr Birgden has operationalised this framework at a policy level and a service delivery level. At a policy level, she designed and rolled out a Reducing Reoffending Framework across the Victorian correctional system (2000-2004). At a service delivery level, she established and managed the Compulsory Drug Treatment Correctional Centre in Sydney (2006-2011). As a consultant, she currently designs case management and clinical service delivery models, and delivers training, across a range of criminal justice settings in Australia.

BIO:

Astrid is a clinical and forensic psychologist, who also holds a Masters in Advanced Mental Disability Law from New York Law School. For the past 30 years she has developed policy and managed service delivery to clients in problem solving courts (family violence court and drug court), intellectual disability services (forensic disability clients) and correctional services (sex offenders and drug-related offenders). She has delivered training on humanistic approaches regarding defendants and offenders to correctional staff and judicial officers. International work has included being involved in a torture prevention project with police and military in Sri Lanka and Nepal, delivering training to prison officers and counsellors in St Kitts/Nevis in the Caribbean, designing a Community-Police Mediation Program in New Orleans, and moderating on a National Institute of Canada online course for judges regarding problem solving courts. In 2000, she studied therapeutic jurisprudence with Professor David Wexler at the University of Puerto Rico and has completed a Masters in Advanced Mental Disability Law through New York Law School. She is published in therapeutic jurisprudence, offender rehabilitation, and human rights.

Event details

Date: **Thursday 21st September 2017**

Time: 2.00 - 3.00pm

Where: Law & Commerce Building
Level 2, Room 2.18

(Free seminar no rsvp required – all welcome)



*For further information please email the Law Research Seminar Coordinator Dr Mostafa Haider at:
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