

John Howard BA, MA(Couns), MCLinPsych, DipCrim, PhD, MAPS.

John is a Registered Psychologist, with qualifications in counselling, clinical psychology and criminology, and a Member of the Australian Psychological Society. He worked as a NSW Department of Education teacher from 1967-1971, and then as a School and Specialist Counsellor for Delinquent Boys from 1972-1975. Subsequently, he was Deputy Superintendent, Tallimba (Institution for Young Offenders) in 1976, and later Senior Counsellor, Stanmore Community Youth Centre (a Community Unit for Young Offenders) and Acting Operations Manager (Juvenile Justice Services) Central Metropolitan Region NSW of the then NSW Department of Youth and Community Services from 1977-1989. In addition, he was a Visiting Clinical Psychologist and a Consulting Clinical Psychologist in the Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Prince of Wales Hospital from 1989 to 1992.

In 1989 John took up a position as a Senior Lecturer in Psychology in the Department of Psychology and Director, Social Health Programs, Macquarie University. In 2001 he was appointed to the position of Director of Clinical Services, Training and Research at the Ted Noffs Foundation, a youth drug treatment program. He joined the National Cannabis Prevention and Information Centre and National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre (NDARC), Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales in 2008 as a Senior Lecturer and worked on activities with a focus on young people and international projects. He is currently a Conjoint Senior Lecturer at NDARC.

John has provided expert reports for numerous serious offence matters before NSW District and Supreme Courts – including Murder, Manslaughter – mostly for those under 25 years of age, and reports on immigration matters. From 1973 he has been involved in providing psychological services to many young offenders involved in serious offences.

He was a member of the Technical Steering Committee of the WHO's Department of Child and Adolescent Health and Development (CAH) and WHO's former Program on Substance Abuse for 6 years, and from 1992 he consulted to CAH, UNICEF, UNODC and the Arab Council on Childhood and Development, on street youth/children in developing countries and the health of male adolescents. This includes work at WHO/HQ in Geneva and field visits, mainly to India, the Philippines, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, China, Thailand, South Africa and Egypt. Since 1999 he has consulted to UNESCAP (Bangkok), with fieldwork in Lao PDR, Viet Nam, China and Thailand on capacity building for the community treatment of young drug users. From 2009, he worked with the Asian Harm Reduction Network on a project to increase access to and participation in youth friendly harm reduction for young injecting drug users (IDU) and those at risk of IDU, in Kathmandu - Nepal, Bangkok – Thailand and Kunming – China, and training workshops also in Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar. He is also involved in capacity building for drug prevention and treatment staff in Bhutan.

He is a member of NSW Health, Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Office Quality in Treatment Sub-Committee, NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Hepatitis, and was also a member of the Evaluation Working Group of the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, and a number of State and National Illicit Drug Strategy working and reference groups.