

Biographical Sketch for Mark Oakley Browne



Professor Mark Oakley Browne is the Statewide Clinical Director of Mental Health Services for the Tasmanian Government Department of Health and Human Services. He is also holds a professorial position within the Discipline of Psychiatry, the University of Tasmania. He commenced in these positions in February 2009. Prior to taking up these positions he was Director of the Department of Rural and Indigenous Health within the School of Rural Health, Monash University (2006 -2009) and Professor of Rural Psychiatry (the School of Psychology, Psychiatry and Psychological Medicine, of Monash University) and Clinical Director for Latrobe Regional Hospital Mental Health Services, Victoria, Australia (2001-2006).

Professor Oakley Browne is a medical graduate of the University of Otago (BSc 1975, MB ChB 1979) and a consultant psychiatrist and Fellow of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (FRANZCP, 1987). In addition to his undergraduate degrees and professional fellowship, he has a Graduate Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology (Newcastle, 1998) and a research doctorate (PhD, Otago, 1993).

The topic of his doctoral research thesis was within the fields of psychiatric epidemiology and social psychiatry. He extended his research training to include medical epidemiology, with a public health orientation, by undertaking the Graduate Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Newcastle. He has also completed further postgraduate training in administration in healthcare management (Master of Health Administration, University of New South Wales 2004) and is an Associate Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators (MRACMA, 2008). His postgraduate training has given Professor Oakley Browne a strong methodological framework for undertaking quantitative mental health research with an applied focus, influenced by the public mental health perspective.

Professor Oakley Browne has had significant senior leadership and administrative roles within the academic and clinical spheres. These have included:

- clinical service development and management;
- acting as head-of-department (Department of Psychiatry, University of Auckland, New Zealand);
- clinical directorship for a large regional mental health service (Latrobe Regional Hospital Mental Health Service, Victoria, Australia);
- acting deputy chief psychiatrist for the Victorian Department of Human Services (Australia); and,
- Director of the Monash University Department of Rural and Indigenous Health (Victoria, Australia).

Professor Oakley Browne has 95 articles and letters in refereed publications, 14 book chapters 5 government reports, 2 edited books, 29 conference presentations and other publications. Most of his research has been conducted within multidisciplinary teams and often has involved collaboration with international researchers. In 1987, he was co-investigator for the Christchurch Psychiatric Epidemiology Study, which is one of a small number community mental health surveys undertaken within Australasia. This study led to more than thirty publications, including conjoint publications with the principal investigators from the USA Epidemiological Catchment Area Study, a landmark psychiatric epidemiology study.

From 1995 to 2001, Professor Oakley Browne was the “inaugural” editor for the Depression, Anxiety and Neurosis Review Group, within the Cochrane Collaboration. With other members of the editorial group, he was responsible for the establishment and maintenance of this review group. This role required expertise in the critical appraisal of the literature, systematic reviews and meta-analysis.

Professor Oakley Browne has also has expertise in the appraisal and development of clinical guidelines and has been involved in the development of clinical guidelines for the NZ Ministry of Health and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists.

Professor Oakley Browne is the principal investigator for Te Rau Hinengaro the New Zealand Mental Health Study (NZMHS), a national community mental health survey, which was undertaken as part of the World Health Organisation and Harvard University sponsored World Mental Health Surveys (WMHS) Initiative. Professor Oakley Browne was responsible for conducting the pilot study for the New Zealand study and coordinating the activities of the research team responsible for the national survey. The field work for the survey was completed in January 2005; the preliminary data analyses completed in January 2006; and, the New Zealand Ministry of Health governmental report and ten core papers were published in September 2006. Professor Oakley Browne and other members of the research team continue to work on the NZ dataset and are contributing to the writing of a number of papers which will present cross-national comparative data from the WMHS initiative. Professor Oakley Browne was a member of the Technical Advisory Group to the Department of Health and Ageing for the second Australian National Survey of Mental Health & Wellbeing.