

WEBINAR

Mental illness, terrorism and grievance-fuelled violence: understanding the nexus



This webinar is funded by the Countering Violent Extremism Sub-Committee under the auspices of the Australia New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee. It is supported by the Department of Home Affairs and produced by the Mental Health Professionals' Network.



Mental illness, terrorism and grievance-fuelled violence: understanding the nexus



Webinar aim

The Citizenship & Social Cohesion Division of the Department of Home Affairs, has commissioned MHPN to develop and deliver a further two webinars (in addition to the one broadcast in March 2019) for mental health professionals. The aim of each webinar is to:

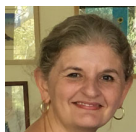
- **increase the health sector's awareness and understanding of countering violent extremism; and**
- **support mental health services/practitioners to better identify and manage the threat posed by those who are at risk of radicalisation to violent extremism.**



Mental illness, terrorism and grievance-fuelled violence: understanding the nexus



Tonight's panel



Dr Ines Rio
General Practitioner



Professor Michele Pathé
Psychiatrist



Professor Alfred Allan
Clinical Psychologist



Professor Mark Creamer
Clinical Psychologist
(Facilitator)



Mental illness, terrorism and grievance-fuelled violence: understanding the nexus



Learning outcomes

At the completion of this facilitated panel discussion about Andy, webinar participants will:

- Understand the non-causal link between mental illness and extremist ideology.
- Identify potential for grievance-fuelled violence and the indicators of radicalisation to violent extremism, particularly where people are exposed to extreme and abhorrent material online.
- Have an awareness of the referral pathways and take appropriate steps if they are concerned that a patient may be radicalising to violence or on a pathway to grievance- fuelled violence.








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Upgraded webinar room

You may have noticed the webinar room looks a little different, we've had an upgrade.

For all the usual interactivity and to access resources, hover over the colourful icons to the top right of your screen:

-  open the chat box
-  access resources including the case study, panel biographies and supporting resources
-  refresh button
-  exit button
-  open the feedback survey



Mental illness, terrorism and grievance-fuelled violence: understanding the nexus



A General Practitioner's Approach to Andy

Dr Ines Rio

MBBS (Hons), FRACGP, MPH, FAICD, DCOG, Grad Dip Ven

LinkedIn

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Dr Ines Rio
General Practitioner



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Andy

This is complex!

- First time you have met
- Work injury
- Practice manager concerned
- Angry and agitated



Dr Ines Rio



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Multiple issues to deal with

- Safety
- The presenting issue
- Clearly need to address other issues



Dr Ines Rio



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Developing a picture of Andy in my room

- Standard GP care to explore broader issues: comprehensive and continuity
- Provides path to develop an understanding of Andy
 - Where is he now: safety to himself and others
 - What has happened before, risk factors
 - Informs assessment of aberrant thinking/behaviour, deterioration functioning
 - Psychotic
 - Mental health
 - Substance use
 - Extremist ideology



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Enhancing the picture: Melanie

- History of serious mental health issues
- Protective factors of employment, family, housing
- Risk factors of isolation, lack close other, online gaming
- Underlying personality features of resentment, anger, poor social skills
- Recent non adherence medication and follow-up, changing behaviour
 - started before the cessation medication



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Enhancing the picture: Wayne

- Increasing dysfunction, problematic behaviour others
- Reinforced what I have witnessed
- Physical changes, pulled away from family, changing group
- Alcohol, marijuana



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Where does this lead me?

- Constellation red flags
 - Progressive and cumulative concerns
 - Witnessed agitation, targeted hatred, extreme views
 - Reinforced by both Melanie and Wayne
- Protective and safety netting factors compromised – family, psychiatrist, soon work
- Is this interplay of mental health and extremism/fanaticism/violence?
- Greatly concerned



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A mental health & multi-agency approach to Andy

Professor Michele Pathé

Forensic Psychiatrist

Forensicare/Swinburne University

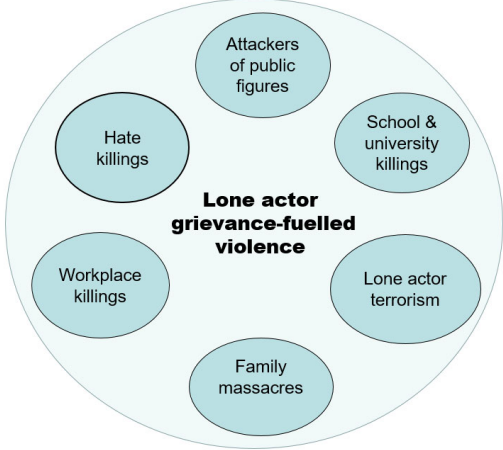


Professor Michele Pathé
Psychiatrist




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The diagram features a large light blue circle containing the central text **Lone actor grievance-fuelled violence**. Surrounding this central text are six smaller light blue circles, each containing a category of violence: **Attackers of public figures** (top), **Hate killings** (top-left), **School & university killings** (top-right), **Workplace killings** (middle-left), **Lone actor terrorism** (middle-right), and **Family massacres** (bottom).

Violent attacks by lone individuals, often involving multiple victims, driven by a real or perceived injury, injustice or vendetta



Professor Michele Pathé


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Australia Government

mhp
Mental Health Partnership

Right wing extremists (RWE; XRW)

- The terrorist landscape has been dominated by jihadists and radical Islam – now seeing the rise of XRW terrorism along with the continued threat of jihadists
- Believe ‘superior’ white race is at risk of being wiped out by non-whites, Jews, refugees, immigrants, Muslims – the ‘out group’
- Increasingly broad ideological spectrum



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Australia Government

mhp
Mental Health Partnership

... RWE

- Use internet to co-opt various grievances held by fringe communities: anti-refugee, anti-feminist, anti-LGBTQI+, anti-abortion, anti-establishment
- Operate alone but connected through virtual communities promulgating misinformation and conspiracy theories
- Continue to evolve and attacks are increasing



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Radicalisation to violent extremism

The process by which individuals come to accept the unlawful use of violence as a legitimate means of pursuing their political, ideological or religious goals.

- Grievances
- Anti-immigrants, anti-feminist, anti-Semitic, anti-LGBTQI+
- Social adjustment/isolation?
- Substance abuse
- References to 'cause', 'enlightenment'
- Support for Christchurch attacker
- Rejection of other views
- Symbols
- Change in appearance & activity
- Limited finances, drugs, support for RWE
- Visiting extremist website/s
- Mental health problems



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RWE and mental illness

- Around 40% of RW terrorists acting alone have a mental illness
- The ideology may resonate for the psychologically vulnerable
- Individuals with a long association with Far Right groups might intensify their prejudices during episodes of mental illness
- Individuals without pre-existing RW ideas could appear for the first time as a result of mental illness



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Defending the decisions we make regarding Andy

Professor Alfred Allan

Clinical Psychologist | Professor of Psychology

Edith Cowan University



Professor Alfred Allan
Clinical Psychologist



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Introduction

- Andy consulted us today
- How do we defend our decisions if they are challenged on 18 February 2021?



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Defensible decision-making

- Context and problem – red flags?
- Process we followed
- Evidentiary basis of decisions
- Decision making frameworks
- Issue (s) for decisions



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Defensible decision-making

- Analysis (Reasoning)
- Decision(s) we made
- Did we review them and how?
- What action did we take?



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Disclosure

- Emergency
- Organisation's policy and procedures
- Profession's rules
- Privacy Act (1988)



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Privacy act

- Use information for primary purpose only, otherwise need consent
- Reasonably believe it is necessary to prevent a serious threat to the life, health or safety of any individual or to public health or safety



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Reasonably

- Reasonably
 - Tangible evidence
 - Objective = consult
- De-identified
- Appropriate person
- Written record



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Conclusion

Andy's case highlights:

- Problem of unknown-unknowns
- Tension between patient and public interests
- Importance of having resources



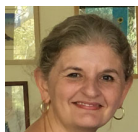
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Question and answer session



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Help guide tonight's discussion

The following are commonly held myths about radicalisation and violent extremism

Myths

1. The problem could be solved by closing down extremist sites
2. People have a right to these views
3. Anti-feminism is not a violent ideology
4. Extreme right wing groups are a cohesive and organised force in Australia

A pop up poll will appear on your screen shortly listing the above myths. Select the one you'd most like the panel to unpack.



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Panellist and Department of Home Affairs recommended resources

For access to resources recommended by the Department of Home Affairs and the panel, click on the supporting resources tab to the top right hand of your screen.



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Thank you for your participation

- Please ensure you complete the feedback survey before you log out.
- Click the Feedback Survey tab at the top of the screen to open the survey.
- A Statement of Attendance will be emailed within four weeks.
- You will receive the recording and supporting resources via email in the next few weeks.



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