

Report for WCP Executive Durban 2014

Feedback from Sydney 2011 generally positive, although the program overall ran at a loss. This was covered to some extent by the Congress Organizer Arinex who provided excellent support to the event.

There have been no major political developments in relation to psychotherapy in Australia. Unlike our New Zealand colleagues, there is still no governmentally recognized registration or accreditation system. PACFA covers many organizations although there have been withdrawals and there is ongoing debate about standards and requirements. There is no immediate resolution in sight. Organizations such as “Headspace” have been initiated with the aim of making psychotherapeutic and other mental health support more accessible to young people. Overall the profile of Mental Health has probably increased in the local political agenda.

There continues to be interest in psychotherapy and associated developments in neuroscience. The consumer movement, particularly in relation to trauma and its effects has been a powerful political influence. Currently there is a Royal Commission into the effects of institutional child abuse in Australia which has raised public awareness of the needs for psychotherapeutic support and the extent of trauma-related problems.

Anthony Korner,

WCP Executive, Australia