

The Mental Health Alliance of SA* is pleased to present a
CONTINUING EDUCATION SERIES 2002 SESSION ON
FACT VERSUS RHETORIC
THE APPLICATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY TO CLINICAL PRACTICE

Epidemiology is the study of how diseases are spread in the population. Originating in the study of epidemics such as cholera and smallpox it has now developed techniques that are useful in understanding disorders such as mental illness.

One of the critical concepts of epidemiology is acknowledging the non accidental way that patterns of illness within a population relate to genetic, environmental or family factors.

The use of this way of approaching mental health helps us to avoid obvious errors in our thinking. Epidemiology has been instrumental in challenging fallacies such as the way that families and others have been blamed for mental illness. Epidemiology is an extremely useful way of understanding the effects of treatment and to identify what works and what doesn't.

An epidemiological approach helps us to understand the common mismatch between demand and supply of service provision. Comparing the frequency of illness in a population with the distribution of services to particular groups can assist in the determining the fairness and equity of our planning mechanisms.

Date: Tuesday 2nd April 2002
Venue: Conference Room
Mental Health Resource Centre
1 Richmond Road, Keswick 5033
Time: 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Light refreshments Gold Coin Donation

Guest Speaker—Associate Professor David Ben-Tovim PhD, MBBS, MRC Psych, FRANZCP.

David Ben-Tovim is an experienced psychiatrist, health planner and epidemiologist. He is currently Associate Professor and Director Clinical Epidemiology and Health Outcomes Unit at the Flinders Medical Centre. He is interested in encouraging discussion on the use of factual rather than rhetorical approaches to planning mental health services.

**The Continuing Education program has been developed by the Mental Health Alliance in recognition of the limited opportunities or resources that are available to stakeholders of its member organisations to participate in continuing education. The Alliance has established a schedule of continuing education meetings that will be held on a monthly basis throughout 2002.*

To assist planning, please RSVP: Phone 8221 5160 or Email sfsa@sfsa.asn.au