

Professor Alexander C. McFarlane AO

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Prof McFarlane is Professor of Psychiatry and the Head of the University of Adelaide Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies. He is an international expert in the field of the impact of trauma on veterans, disaster survivors and civilian accidents. He is a Past President of both the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies and the Australasian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies.

He is the recipient for the Robert Laufer Award for outstanding scientific achievement in the study of the effects of traumatic stress. In 2008, he was awarded the Organon Senior Research Award for the most significant contribution to psychiatric research in Australia during the preceding 5 years. He also became the 11th recipient of the Founders Medal of the Australasian Society for Psychiatric Research, awarded to individuals who have made a contribution of significance to psychiatric research over their entire career. He is the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies for outstanding and fundamental contributions to the field of traumatic stress studies.

He has held the role of Senior Adviser in Psychiatry to the Australian Defence Force, and the Department of Veterans Affairs. He holds the rank of Group Captain in the RAAF specialist reserve. He has acted as an advisor to many groups in post disaster situations, including the Kuwait Government, and the United Nations and has lectured and run workshops in Europe, United States of America, Asia and South Africa.

His research has focused on the epidemiology and longitudinal course of posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as the neuroimaging of the cognitive deficits in this disorder. He has a particular interest in the impact of childhood trauma and its impact on adult adjustment. He also has had significant experience in the provision of care to emergency service personnel.

He has been the principal investigating the physical and mental health of all veterans and serving members who have been deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations and the major research program that examined the mental health of the entire Australian Defence Force. His centre is currently investigating the transition of all personnel who have left the ADF since 2010. He also has a continuing history of research supported by NHMRC Program and Partnership grants.

He has published over 350 articles and chapters in various refereed journals and has co-edited three books. He has also been involved in medico-legal cases in a number of jurisdictions in Australia and internationally on matters relating to traumatic stress. He frequently appears in the media as a commentator on the impact of war and disaster. He has lectured the impact of trauma on the art and literature.

In 2011 he received the Officer of the Order of Australia award in the Australia Day Honours List. The award recognizes outstanding contribution to medical research in the field of psychiatry, particularly posttraumatic stress disorders, to veterans' mental health management, and as an author.