



BIOGRAPHY

PROFESSOR DON BYRNE

Professor Don Byrne is currently Foundation Director of the Research School of Psychology (RSPsych) at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. The ANU is Australia's leading research-intensive university and is currently ranked among the top 25 universities in the world. The Research School of Psychology was created from the previous Department of Psychology in 2012 and its elevation to Research School status at the ANU was a mark of the School's distinction in the world of international scholarship. The School's mission is to consolidate its position as an international leader in both research and education in psychology, and to further increase its scholarly prominence in the international areas of psychology and health.

Professor Byrne was educated at the University of Adelaide but took up a position at the ANU in 1975, initially in psychiatry, and has remained there for his entire academic career. Over the past twenty years, however, he has held a number of senior academic management positions in that University including; (a) several terms as Head of the (then) Department of Psychology, (b) Deputy Dean and Interim Dean of the Faculty of Science, and (c) Director of the School of Health and Psychological Sciences. He was appointed Foundation Director of the RSPsych in July 2012.

He currently sits on a number of senior management committees within the ANU including; (a) the Executive of the College of Medicine, Biology and Environment, (b) the Executive of the ANU Medical School, (c) the Delegated Ethics in Research Committee of the ANU, and (d) the Board of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy.

He holds doctorates from both the University of Adelaide (PhD, 1975) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim (*Doctor Honoris Causa*), the latter of which was conferred in 2012. Professor Byrne is an elected Fellow of the Australian Psychological Society (1994) and of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (1995) (one of Australia's four prestigious learned academies). He also remains a registered psychologist with Registration Board endorsement to practice in the specialist area of clinical psychology. Professor Byrne currently sits on a number of national and international committees, including the Psychology Program Accreditation Committee of the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council, the Grant Application Assigners Academy of the National Health and Medical Research Council, and the Research Advisory Board of the National Research Centre for Health Promotion at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. At a community level, he sits regularly as a Senior Professional Member of the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal which adjudicates on matters of compulsory mental health treatment in the ACT.

Professor Byrne continues to engage actively in research and is currently funded to work in two broad areas. The first involves an eight-year longitudinal study of health risk behaviours and developing risk factors in children and adolescents, while the second focuses on stress and the development of resilience in serving police officers. He has authored, co-authored or edited 14 books, and more than 150 book chapters or research papers in scholarly journals in both psychology and medicine. His own research has focused exclusively on the close interface between psychology and medicine, much of this directly related to identifying psychological risk for cardiovascular disease. And his research career has been guided by the over-riding philosophy that research in many if not all areas of human health can only progress satisfactorily if the link between behavior and health is fully taken account of, and that failure to do this leaves an insurmountable gap in the investigative process.