

Dear Mad Reading Folk,

Apologies again for postponing October's session; we will let you know as soon as we are able to organise a get together to discuss *Sincerely Survivor*.

In November, we will continue our normal reading group schedule on the topic of *Restorative Justice and the Mental Health System*.

We will look at some materials that explain the concept of restorative justice, and ask what a mental health system that incorporates this model would look like in cases where people experience harm as a result of engagement with mental health services.

Our facilitators this month are Zara and Jo – a big thank you to you both!

Time and date: Tuesday 16th November, 7pm-8.30pm AEST (8am UK time – sorry, a bit early!)

Zoom link:

<https://vla-vic-gov-au.zoom.us/j/64430538418>

Meeting ID: 644 3053 8418

Password: 998524

Readings:

We know it's a very busy time with everything opening up in Vic and NSW, and acknowledge that this may be stressful for a lot of people, so are setting just two short pieces:

1. The first is [this introduction to restorative justice](#) from Open Circle, a restorative justice service within the Centre for Innovative Justice (CIJ) at RMIT University
2. The second is the report '[Restorative justice in forensic mental health settings](#)', which was authored by Eliza Hew, a Juris Doctor and Masters of Social Work student who completed a credited online internship with Open Circle in the second half of 2020. Eliza is well known to the Mad Studies organisers as she also interned at IMHA 😊 Please note the report is quite long, **so we recommend reading Chapter 7 (approx. 10 pages)** which contains some case studies – although of course feel free to read the whole report should you wish!

Here are some questions to get you thinking:

- How do you think restorative justice principles/framework could be applied in cases of harm caused by clinicians to consumers (e.g. prescribed medication causing irreversible side effects, forced or coerced treatment, or harmful comments which were detrimental to the person?)
- What aspects of restorative justice resonate with you and how do you think they link in with or inform Mad scholarship?
- What do you think about using restorative justice principles to address harm rather than traditional mechanisms such as internal complaints/independent complaints bodies?
- Central to restorative justice is a focus on storytelling and accountability. Can psychiatry as a discipline/practice be trusted to acknowledge and address harm?

Looking forward to seeing you then!

Antonia and Zara