



PITTS Marion Professor

In the last eleven years I have researched extensively in the broad area of Health Psychology. I have been particularly concerned with aspects of men's and women's health and with routes into health service provision, reasons for delay in treatment seeking and routes out of treatment. My work has informed clinical practice by identifying the psychosocial needs of women undergoing gynaecological procedures and by outlining the barriers that deter people from seeking appropriate medical consultation. My book *The Psychology of Preventative Health* (1996) examined ways in which the individual interacts with health services and health promotion and was particularly concerned to challenge an individualistic and victim blaming account of health responsibilities. In my research I have used both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to tackle different health psychology issues. I am a regular reviewer for international journals that include *British Medical Journal*, *Social Science and Medicine* and *AIDS*. My current work at ARCSHS includes research with a number of stigmatised and marginalised groups. This work was recognised by the Research Progress Award from People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Victoria in 2002, and by invitation to be the key note speaker at the British Psychological Society annual conference in 2003, with the theme 'Making a difference'. I was the keynote speaker at the Public Health Association annual conference in 2005. In the past five years I have been invited to provide advice and expertise to State and Federal Ministerial committees, to the World Health Organisation in the areas of sex and sexual health, to the Ford Foundation and the New Zealand Ministry of Health. In 2005 and 2006 I was a member of the NHMRC public health grants panel.

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