

Anne Buist, MBBS, MMed, MD, FRANZCP, is the Professor/Director of Women's Mental Health at the University of Melbourne, Austin Health and Northpark private hospital. Over the last 20 years devoted herself to the clinical care and research of women with perinatal mental illness. She is responsible for two inpatient mother-baby units, with day programs and outpatient care covering women in North East Victoria (approx 20,000 births/per year). She runs a registrar training program in women's mental health, which includes mother-infant relationships and the introduction of innovative interventions to improve child outcomes.

Professor Buist received a four million dollar grant and led the beyondblue postnatal depression program 2001-5, screening over 40,000 women across Australia including the outback, CALD and indigenous women. The aim of this project was to demonstrate acceptability and feasibility of routine screening in order to improve mental health care for all mothers and through doing so improve their long term mental health and reduce the risk of their children having educational, developmental and emotional delays and their own mental health issues as adults; recommendations from this study have been accepted by the Federal government and are being implemented across Australia.

Other research has included the history of child abuse and perinatal depression, antenatal prevention, a cost analysis of perinatal depression, a qualitative study of why women delay seeking help and video feedback in the mother-infant relationship; all these projects had direct implications for clinical care as well as assisting in advising government and health services how to best ensure good outcomes. Other roles have included expert advice to the Victorian review of infanticide laws, chairing a subcommittee of the Victorian child death review committee, member of the Ministerial advisory committee on Women's Health, currently on the National review of antenatal guidelines and past president of the Australasian Marce (perinatal) committee. In 2010 she completed a six month sabbatical in women's mental health at Yale University