

Edward Petch was born and bred in and around London. He grew up near and worked in a chocolate factory. That may or may not have been a formative experience, but being educated in Windsor Castle certainly was. This was followed by years of abuse in the English public school system and medical school. He has subsequently spent much of his adult life in secure mental institutions of varying degrees of security, and intermittently in prisons. He followed a well-trodden path from UK to Australia 5 years ago, and has recently completed his rehabilitation as a new Australian citizen. He seems incapable of stopping learning new things, so has a number of degrees, a few in some quite interesting things, and most latterly an MBA, as he naively thought this might allow him to reach an understanding of what people working in those tower blocks do all day. He has also taken to his workshop in a successful attempt to keep the finger surgeons of Perth busy. He recently met Jack Gregor (solely responsible for his presence at this conference) at the side of a tennis court whilst watching our pre-wimbledon youngsters battle it out. In his spare time he is the Director of the State Forensic Mental Health Service, which has exposed him to the underbelly of society and government in WA, and has allowed him to observe a little of the mental health arena. In his talk he intends to explore what mental illness is, how it can impact workers and the workplace, and what enlightened employers can do to minimise it. He cannot guarantee you will be enlightened, but hopes that by merely raising it as an issue at the conference, he will reduce the terrible stigma of mental illness, and add fuel to the developing FIFO/mental health discourse in WA. In order to avoid the crush at the doors, please try to stay until the end.