

UNSUNG HERO

STANLEY CATTS 61 // PSYCHIATRIST AND RESEARCHER

As a clinician, Stan, of Spring Hill, has been deeply moved by the suffering of patients he has seen with schizophrenia, depression and bipolar disorder. “One of my first experiences was to visit a jail where I saw hundreds of prisoners on remand who had schizophrenia,” says Stan, a professor of community psychiatry at the University of Queensland. The professor, who leads the early psychosis intervention team at Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, says mental health is a neglected area that requires more investment. “The community needs to change its attitude – there is a view that mental health is different to physical health, but it’s not, and our stance should be the same,” says Stan. The researcher is currently involved in two research consortia: to design ways to evaluate practice, and to understand the causes of schizophrenia through collecting genetic data. He is the chair and a trustee of the Queensland Schizophrenia Research Foundation, a public fund started by clinical researchers to support research into psychotic disorders in young people.

DEANA PUGLISI

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