

## PRESENTERS



### **David Allan, Barrister, Hamilton**

David has practised as a barrister sole since 1995 in Hamilton. He specialises in the areas of mental health, ID, parole and criminal law. David often acts for clients who have been institutionalised and present with high and complex needs. He has developed an interviewing method, which extends far beyond the index offending and grapples with the cause of the cycle of offending and how the person can work towards getting out of the criminal justice system. The aim is to better inform the Court so that the problems and solutions that are specific to the person can be identified.



### **Dr Brigit Mirfin-Veitch, Director, Donald Beasley Institute, Dunedin**

Brigit has been a member of the Institute's research team since 1994. The DBI is an independent charitable trust, which conducts research and education in the field of intellectual disability. She has a strong interest in understanding the social lives of people with learning disabilities and is committed to initiating and achieving social change through research. Brigit has been involved in research on a wide range of topics including deinstitutionalisation, physical health, mental health and wellbeing, parenting and the law, and has disseminated and published widely across those areas. Her current research, funded by the New Zealand Law Foundation, is focused on the experiences of people with an intellectual disability in the legal system.

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