

# Interview of Dr Rees Tapsell

Dr Rees Tapsell is a Consultant forensic psychiatrist and past president of Te ORA

- 1. Where did you grow up and go to school?**  
*Rotorua*
- 2. What influenced you to go into Medical training?**  
*Father was surgeon, wanted to help others, wanted to have reasonable standard of living*
- 3. Did being Māori influence your decision to do medicine, or your subsequent career pathway?**  
*Not really*
- 4. What is your job at the moment?**  
*Consultant forensic psychiatrist*
- 5. Why have you gone into the particular area that you did?**  
*Intellectually stimulating, high need, no on call, opportunities for private practice*
- 6. What particular skills do you use most in your work as a Psychiatrist?**  
*Interpersonal interaction, analysis and formulation, report writing*
- 7. Are there any particular heroes or mentors that have affected your career or what you have chosen to do?**  
*Prof Eru Pōmare, Dr Geoff Robinson, Dr David Chaplow*
- 8. Are there any particular things people should do to prepare for working as a Psychiatrist? What advice would you give to people considering becoming a Psychiatrist?**  
*Have a five year plan to complete your exams and don't become distracted, have a mentor, make sure that you are reasonably confident in Te Ao Māori*
- 9. How has being Māori influenced your experiences during your medical training, or subsequently in your job?**  
*Additional expectations, activities, opportunities, all of which can be the best and worst part of your job/life.*