AASW
Tasmanian Branch

Tasmanian Social Worker May/June 2011

Inside this issue:

ASWEAS Review p2

World Social Work Day 2011 Celebra- p3

Jim Ife Seminar p4

Retired Social Workers p5

Upcoming CPD Events p6,

Virtual Visiting Resource Kit p7

State Conference p8

Message from the Branch Committee

The Tasmanian branch of AASW has been busy organising a range of professional development workshops and events for 2011. Details will be circulated as the arrangements are confirmed. We plan to run sessions on Ethics, working with CALD communities, supervision, and we will also be co-sponsoring events with the UTAS School of Social Work.

The first event featured Jim Ife (see inside for photos) and three Ethics workshops will be held in May and June in Launceston, Ulverstone and Hobart.

The collaboration between AASW and the University will also result in a confer ence towards the end of the year. So watch this space!

The Branch committee is also currently seeking new members to help us carry out these events. We hold monthly teleconference meetings as there are members from both ends of the state. If you would like to join the committee please contact Sandra, our office manager on 6224 5833 or by email (aaswtas@aasw.asn.au).

Carol Dorgelo
President AASW Tasmanian Branch

Consultation on Unregistered Health Practitioners

The Commonwealth government is carrying out consultation forums in each state and territory seeking input on unregistered health practitioners. This has been an 'invitation-only' process. I went along as the AASW representative to the session held in Hobart on 30 March 2011. A discussion paper "Options for regulation of unregistered health practitioners" was circulated to the participants and this was the basis for the feedback sought.

A submission will be compiled from this national consultation process and will be presented to the Council of Australian Government (COAG) Health Ministers meeting in the second half of 2011.

This session was led by Ann-Louise Carton who is the Manager, Health Practitioner Regulation Unit, in the Victorian Department of Health.
(continued on page 2)

Approximately 25 people attended the Hobart session. The other professions represented included ambulance staff, massage therapists, speech pathologists, dieticians, counsellors, psychotherapists, pharmacists, and consumer advocates.

The general agreement of the group was that there is an issue with unregistered health practitioners. These issues include:

- Unethical or illegal practice by some practitioners
- Lack of redress for clients who have been subjected to poor quality or inappropriate, or unsafe services
- Lack of national approach to monitoring practitioners that move from state to state
- Lack of consistency of standards, and qualifications of practitioners
- Many professional organisations not adequately resourced to monitor and enforce professional standards

The Hobart participants generally agreed that the following needed to be considered in order for better protection for clients and professional practitioners:

- An agreed national Code of Conduct for all health practitioners
- Increased government support for professional organisations to develop practice standards, support, training etc for their members
- National information sharing so that practitioners who have been de-registered or charged with an offence in one state cannot practice in another state
- Increased resources provided for consumer education on rights, and complaint process
- Agreed definition of title of each health practitioner (eg social worker, counsellor, dietician, nutritionist etc) so there is a consistent standard of qualification, ongoing professional development etc for that service so consumers know what to expect when engaging such a practitioner.

The national office of AASW has been actively pursuing registration for social work for some years, as is still working on registration as a goal to achieve. The Commonwealth government has a national registration and accreditation process which has resulted in 10 professions being registered in 2010 with another 4 professions to be registered by 2012.

There will be further information circulated about the registration process through the national newsletters.

Carol Dorgelo
President

AASW Tasmanian Branch

Australian Association of Social Workers

Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS) Review 2010 -

The AASW Board has approved a review of the *Australian Social Work Education and Accreditation Standards* (Parts I & II), the National Standards for Social Work Education in Australia. The AASW is recognised by Australian Governments as the professional body responsible for the accreditation of Social Work programs in Australian universities. Graduates of Schools of Social Work, accredited for their entry level Social Work programs, are eligible to become members of the AASW. Eligibility for membership of the AASW is a requirement of many employers, in particular in the Health sector in state governments and for employment in the Federal Government.

The Standards ensure that graduating Social Workers have the skills, knowledge and values to successfully enter the profession. All AASW Accredited Social Work Degrees incorporate curriculum content that address the ethical and professional standards of the Social Work profession; the development of critical thinking skills and the variety of theoretical approaches, knowledge and skills relevant to the practice of Social Work in a range of fields. Additionally, since 2008, there has been a specific focus on four key areas of learning. These are: Child Well Being and Protection, Mental Health, Working with Culturally Diverse Communities and Working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities. The Standards make a significant contribution to the quality of Social Work education in Australia and ensure that our graduates are well equipped to address the challenges of professional Social Work.

The review has commenced and is considering a range of issues identified since the Standards were published in 2008, together with broader workforce issues facing the Social Work profession and Social Work Education. A Reference Group chaired by AASW National Vice President (Education), Marie-Claire Cheron-Sauer and composed of representatives of Social Work Educators, workforce experts, government and non-government employers and other stakeholders has been established to guide the review process. The review will include consultation with members, education providers, employers and other stakeholders. A range of approaches are being considered for the consultation process including some targeted focus groups and discussion papers, with invitations for feedback and comment. These discussion papers will also be available on the ASWEAS Review website page at http://www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/consultation-asweas-review for the general membership to provide feedback. For more information regarding the review process please refer to upcoming AASW e-Bulletins and to the AASW ASWEAS Review website page. Further information can also be obtained from the AASW Education Officer via education@aasw.asn.au.

AASW National Office

World Social Work Day 2011 Celebrations March 15th 2011

The theme for this year's World Social Work Day was "Social Work voices responding to global crises: Together we develop the agenda". The AASW contributed to celebrations held at the University of Tasmania at the Hobart, Launceston and Cradle Coast campuses.

Photo of one of the wonderful cakes contributed by the AASW.

As University of Tasmania social work students and staff gathered together to celebrate this special day and connect as a social work community, they also remembered and connected with social workers elsewhere. In particular, direct links were made to the newly established social work community in Cambodia as they too hosted events to celebrate the profession and its aspirations to address social injustice. Two alumni from the University of Tasmania have connections with the social work community in Cambodia. One, a returned volunteer, whilst the other a current volunteer - both with Australian Volunteers International.

Photo of students from the Social Work Department in Phnom Penh.

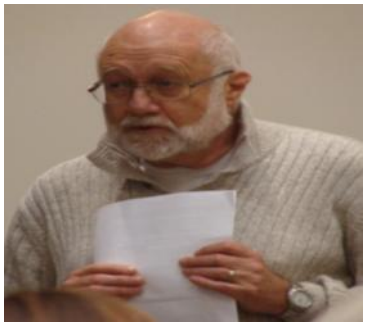
Mara Schneiders spent 18 months working as an adviser with the Social Work Department at the Royal University of Phnom Penh as they commenced the first ever undergraduate social work course in the country. With the first cohort now in their 3rd year, and due to graduate in 2012, the Social Work Department in Phnom Penh is training young Cambodians to be future leaders in a country still experiencing the devastating impact of civil war, genocide and poverty. Returning to Tasmania in August 2010, Mara is now working with the social work team at UTAS teaching community work practice.

Meanwhile in Battambang province, close to the Thai border, Alison Birchall is working with Homeland (Meahto Phum Ko) building capacity of the team there delivering social work services to vulnerable children, especially street children, trafficked children and children orphaned by HIV, AIDs and other causes. This is the first time Homeland has celebrated World Social Work Day, and as part of their recognition of this day, they are hosting a fundraising fun walk. The ABC Radio Drive program interviewed Alison Birchall in Cambodia as part of World SW Day.

Social work education and services in Cambodia continue to face numerous challenges in their efforts to address social injustice experienced by many Cambodians. Poverty, gendered violence, trafficking, access to health and education services, poor governance, are amongst many issues prevalent in the country.

Photo of 4th year BSW students from the University of Tasmania.

A Future for Social Work: Reasserting Humanity and Democracy



On Thursday 12th May in Launceston & on Friday 13th May in Hobart
The School of Sociology and Social Work,
University of Tasmania
and the Australian Association of Social Workers (Tasmania)
proudly sponsored

Jim Ife

Emeritus Professor, Curtin University

Over 90 social work practitioners, educators and students came together over the two days to hear Professor Jim Ife speak .

Professor Ife is a well-known and internationally respected author in social work, community development and human rights. Jim was also one of the founding staff of the social work course in Tasmania.

The AASW Social Work Student of the Year 2010 Alice Fitzpatrick was presented with her award by Carol Dorgelo AASW Tas Branch President. The award is for excellence in fieldwork and academic performance by a fourth year student.

RETIRED SOCIAL WORKERS NEVER... STOP GETTING TOGETHER!!

...It was our bi-monthly lunch get-together at a busy cafeteria near Hobart's waterfront, where eight to twelve or so retired social workers enjoy a lively time of confirming friendship...

Food for thought takes pre-eminence! As I soaked up some of the cross-currents of our conversation, snippets *(paraphrased)* included -

"Here, choose from these cards - we can all write a note to let * know we're thinking of her following her surgery – she goes home tomorrow I think."

"I've promised myself I'll finish my income tax today before flying to Europe tomorrow to help celebrate a baby grand-daughter's first birthday!"

"Was it you who told me years ago about the great display of *Prionotes cerinthoides* (Climbing Heath) near Lake Skinner - hubby and I joined a Walking Club walk into Lake Skinner on Saturday and it was wonderful – was that a relative of yours who led it? Some of us had lunch in a mossy cave..." *[the hike an added triumph after hip replacements!]*

"Yes, we went round to Port Davey on a fishing boat with our kayaks and provisions and spent 14 days paddling around, admiring Mt Rugby and enjoying exploring the solitude... I'm joining a group of volunteer workers for ten days on Tasman Island over Easter – helicoptering in – I'm the cook! Oh, and I'm doing more renovations at home – what do you think about # for a name for my home?" *[fitness abundant after a severe cancer scare!]*

"* said she'd be here, hope she hasn't confused the time, hope she's OK..." "I could leave those *(social work!)* magazines in her letterbox for you..."

"The last time we were talking about that was when I was roaming with family members in the hills of New Hampshire..."

"Oh thanks for that section of last Friday's *Mercury* – I've mislaid ours and it's relevant to hubby's work at present... yes, we always listen to Radio National but *that* newsreader!! I agree, *Bush Telegraph* and the book readings and … are great, but some in our family are fixated on news so there are 'strong' discussions at times!" "I agree, my son's partner says he goes round the house with earphones on to catch news updates all the time! - I don't know... I need some more positive, news-free time..."

"No, she couldn't make it today – has a friend staying and they've gone shopping!"

"No, the head of my walking stick is not sassafras wood, but a young ram's horn, the stem is cherry wood – I discovered these sticks are special and made in.... this one was left behind in a house for sale!"

"I wonder what the conference delegates sharing the cafeteria today are specialists in? Probably some world experts in that lot!"

"Could we meet for lunch next week at #? They have yummy food and it's less high-brow than some places!"

"It's just over a year now since we moved into our retirement unit, but we haven't even had time yet to invite everyone we'd like to share a cuppa with us!"

"Yes, I'm still enjoying volunteering in # - the new venue's great and * who runs the business next door is so enthusiastic and has such a range of stock, and they're all these coffee places nearby too!"

"Yes, I am being picked up thank you... but I'm more used to driving myself. Just listen to those magpies – we don't have them near our home."

"You know, we might be retired social workers, but we hardly ever talk about social work!!"

Maybe not – but isn't it the 'glue' that brings us together, the like-mindedness that is the basis for our continuing mutual interest, that common ground!

Robin Bowden

Upcoming AASW TAS CPD Events

"The new AASW Code of Ethics: What does it mean for my practice?"

An invitation to all Social Workers to join a discussion workshop in Hobart

Date: Friday 17 June 2011

Time: **12:00 – 2:00 (*lunch included*), followed by general discussion on AASW activity for the coming year**

Venue: **Glenorchy Civic Centre, Cooper Street, Glenorchy**

Presenter/facilitator: Carol Dorgelo

Carol is the current President of the Tas branch of AASW. She works as a social worker at the Tasman Health & Community Service, Nubeena.

Cost: AASW members & students: FREE

Non- members: $10

RSVP: aaswtas@aasw.asn.au or 6224 5833

Enquiries to Carol Dorgelo 0438 192 328

CPE points: 4

Dinner with David Hunnerup and Deborah Klye.

TOPIC: EXPLORING SOCIAL WORK and PRIVATE PRACTICE
Why would a Social Worker consider Private Practice?
Are the two ideas even compatible?
Social Work theory meets Private Practice.

Date: Wednesday, 8th June 5.30 – 8pm.
Time: 5.30 arrive, order meal (by 6pm) & networking
6.15 approx arrival of meal 6.30 Guest Speakers and Discussion
Venue: Function Room Kains Bar @ Riverview Hotel
43 Lower Charles St Launceston TAS 7250 (Facing Seaport and near Harvey Norman Car park)
Cost: Please pay for own meal and refreshments.
RSVP: by 7 June to Sandra Fox E:aaswtas@aasw.asn.au P:6224 5833 (Tues/Thurs 9.30-1.30)

Professional Supervision for High Performance

Speaker: Tracey Harris (BSW DipSoc MAASW (Acc) FRDP (Acc) BSZ MPhil (Commenced)) Amovita Consulting

HOBART - Friday 23rd September 2011 & **LAUNCESTON - Monday 26th September 2011**

Venues and times to be advised

Tracey Harris is a leading speaker and professional on how to develop and maintain high performance in the work-place.

As a clinical social worker, accredited mediator, consultant and lecturer she is widely recognised as an engaging and inspiring presenter who incorporates high performance principles as part of her presentations. Tracey is a clinical specialist and researcher with a particular interest in clinical and professional supervision and mentoring that results in high performance outcomes.

Resources

Virtual Visiting Resource Kit

The Virtual Visiting Resource Kit has been developed to assist residential aged care facilities to design and deliver a virtual visiting program. The Virtual Visiting Resource Kit is based on materials developed by Western District Health Service, Victoria, and funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.

The kit includes information to assist residential aged care facilities with:

- marketing a virtual visiting program;
- developing virtual visiting policies and procedures;
- understanding the equipment requirements for virtual visiting;
- helping families to participate in virtual visiting; and

engaging staff and volunteers to assist with operating a virtual visiting program.
The kit provides information about:

- the rationale for, and benefits of, virtual visits in aged care facilities;
- the technological requirements for virtual visits; and

how to start up a virtual visiting program in your aged care facility.
For more information: Virtual Visiting – Keeping Connected: A Resource Kit for Residential Aged Care Facilities'

International Women's Development Agency

Hobart Fundraiser Screening of 'Oranges and Sunshine'

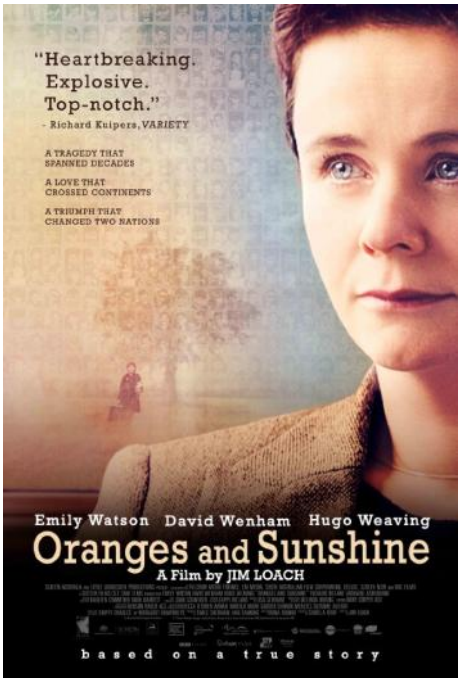
"A Social Worker from Nottingham, Who Uncovered One of the Most Significant Social Scandals in Recent Times: The Forced Migration of Children from the United Kingdom".

Date: Wednesday 22 June, 2011
Time: 5:45pm for a 6:15pm start (Please check IWDA website two days before to confirm this time)
Venue: State Cinema (375 Elizabeth Street, North Hobart)
Cost: $25 per person

Please **RSVP** by Friday 17 June, 2011.

Proceeds will contribute to IWDA's work supporting **practical and rights-based initiatives** that directly address **poverty, oppression and gender inequality** in Asia and the Pacific. And once again, Cocoa Farm has kindly donated delicious chocolates to indulge on during the film!

Book your tickets online today or call (03) 9650 5574 to book over the phone.
http://www.iwda.org.au/au/2011/05/18/oranges-and-sunshine/



Australian Association of Social Workers

The School of Sociology and Social Work, University of Tasmania and the Australian Association of Social Workers (Tasmania)

invite you to an exciting conference in Hobart

Date: Friday, 21 October 2011
Venue: Hobart venue TBA
Time: 10.00 am – 3.00pm

The focus of the conference will be on Showcasing Social Work!
The program will include presentations from practising social workers, researchers, academics and AASW staff with the aim of promoting reflection, discussion and innovation.

This conference will be an opportunity for social workers to:

- Hear exciting speakers on contemporary topics
- Critically reflect on the role of social work in the contemporary environment
- Participate in motivational workshops
- Network with old and new colleagues

Contact: Sandra Fox at Tas Branch Office **E:** aaswtas@aasw.asn.au or **P:** 6224 5833 (Tues & Thurs 9.30-1.30)

Add this date to your diary and watch this space for further updates on the program.

Tasmanian Branch Management Committee

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