

**Australian Association of Social Workers
South Australian Branch**



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2010-2011

Branch Management Committee
2011

President Sue King
Vice President Marion Croser

Committee Members

Diana Awarua
Mary Hood
Janet Kelly
Robyn Lingard
Peter Munn
Tricia Munn
Patricia Senior-Karl
Charlotte Trenter
Sally Watson
Mark Wilson

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2010 AGM
- 4 President's report – Sue King
- 5 Finance Report
- 6 Election of Management Committee members
- 7 Other Reports
- 8 Presentation of certificates

CERTIFICATES TO BE PRESENTED TO:

20 YEARS

10 YEARS

**Minutes of South Australian Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers
Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2010
at the Hackney Hotel, Dequetteville Terrace, Hackney**

1 Present
As per register.

2 Apologies
Sally Watson, Mary Hood

Chair: Sue King

Minutes: Julie Hallifax

Meeting started at 6.00 pm and President Sue King welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional owners of the Kurna land

Minutes of AGM 2009

Sue advised the meeting that the minutes had been checked at the Branch Management Meeting directly following the AGM and believed to be a true record.

Moved Christine Belford, seconded Marion Croser that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2009 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Carried

An Annual Report had been distributed on arrival to Members.

President's report.

Sue King reported that 2010 has been a very active one for the AASW SA Branch. Sue's written report in the Annual Report detailed the highlights of the year.

Sue acknowledged Deb Lee and congratulated her on her appointment to the National Board. She also acknowledged Donnie Martin's contribution during her tenure as Board Member and thanked her for her commitment to South Australia.

Sue thanked Connie Rugen for her many years of involvement with the Ethics and CPE Committees. Christine Belford was thanked for her leadership and wisdom shown during her years as Coordinator of the Ethics Committee and her service on the Branch Management Committee.

Sue advised the meeting that Julie Hallifax was finishing as Branch Manager at the end of this year. She thanked Julie for her commitment and wished her well.

Finance Officer

Janet Kelly presented the finance report.

Election of Officers for BMC

Following the first national elections held by postal ballot the following positions were advised to the meeting.

President	Sue King	2 years
Committee member	Diana Awarau	2 years
Committee member	Patricia Senior-Karl	2 years

The President then called for nominations to fill the vacancies on the Branch Management Committee

Nominee	Term
Mark Wilson	2 years
Peter Munn	2 years
Robyn Lingard	2 years

Charlotte Trenter
Trish Munn

2 years
2 years

The nominated members were accepted.

Meetings are held monthly.

OTHER REPORTS

CPE Group

Sue King reported on behalf of the CPE Convenor, Sally Watson, that the CPE events this year have been well attended. The introduction of some all day workshops had been successful and the continuation of varying the days of workshops again had presented better opportunities for members to attend. Other members to join Sally on the committee have been Lynne Sellars, Arlette Beelitz and Sue King.

The AGM elected David Roach, Maxine Longford and Jennie Charlton to the Committee until 2012.

Branch Ethics Group

Christine Belford presented the Ethics Report and confirmed that the new Code of Ethics was very close to completion following involvement from all states in forums to provide comment. The AGM acknowledged Tricia Munn and Mark Wilson's continuing membership of this committee and elected Sophie Diamandi and Tim Walsh to the Committee until September 2012.

Breakfast Networking

Marion Croser reported on the three Breakfast Networking groups now meeting in the north, south and city bi-monthly. Attendances are small at this stage, but the groups will continue in 2011 to provide the networking opportunities for social workers.

National Registration

Marion Croser reported that regular meetings are continuing regarding National Registration.

Evidence Based Practice Group

Marion Croser reported that following a CPE Workshop on Evidence Based Practice last year, a group had been meeting bi-monthly to advance the knowledge of this practice. All members are welcome to attend the workshops where a member of the group presents.

New Graduates Group

Mark Wilson acknowledged the support and work of Apol Braithwaite, Rachel Wallis and Ashley Moyle during the year. The group now has a Facebook page operating and has continued to meet during the year.

20 Year Certificate was presented by Deb Lee to

- Ann Young

40 Year Certificate was presented to

- Peter Nixon

Sue thanked members for their attendance and input.

Meeting closed 6.55 p.m.

LeenaSudano, Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner addressed the meeting during Dinner. Her topic was *'Charter of Community Health and Service Rights'*.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

October 2011

It is my great pleasure to report to you on a year in which the AASW SA Branch has worked effectively to promote your interests and to provide an increased range of services to you. I am pleased to report that membership numbers remains strong and at 18 October membership of the SA Branch stands at 494 members.

In this report I will identify some highlights of the past year. However throughout the year an opportunity for reporting to you and sharing of news and ideas has been created through our Newsletter. Kathy Inverarity and Sally McMichael, as editors of this important vehicle for communication, have this year refined the format of the Newsletter and continued to ensure that the Newsletter adds to the life of the Branch. I thank them for their work in the past and their willingness to continue in this role in the year ahead.

At the SA Branch level a highlight of the year has been the Continuing Professional Development program and the Calendar which we proudly launched with the assistance of National President Bob Lonnie at our World Social Work day breakfast. This calendar drew together on one page the many opportunities that members have to engage with one another in professional development activities. It showed the CPD program for the whole year and members responded by booking ahead either online or through the office. The calendar also profiled the work being done by the peer-skill share group, the evidence based practice group and the students and new graduates group. Dates for our Networking breakfasts in the North, South and the City have enabled small groups of social workers in each of these locations to meet for mutual support and sharing of news and ideas.

2011 is a year in which we have worked to consolidate the benefits of being part of a national Association. The national AGM in late 2010 addressed by Minister Mark Butler who announced the success of our campaign to reverse the removal of social workers from the Medicare Better Access program. This was an important success to which South Australian social workers had made an important (and well acknowledged) contribution. During the year, the Branch Management Committee, led by Robyn Lingard and Mary Hood, has worked to maintain the momentum of this campaign. Deb Lee, a national AASW Director has briefed members' seminars in May and October. Our members in private practice are a very important group within the Association and we look forward to identifying more ways in which we can support them.

Drawing effectively on our national office has enabled our super efficient Branch Manager, Kathy Baklan, to achieve more in the two days a week that she works than could reasonably be expected. Kathy makes a fantastic contribution to the achievement of our goals. She manages the administrative aspects of the Branch and gives leadership in the promoting of our activities and profiling of social work. National office manages membership renewals and database and the accounting and payroll services that we need.

Another priority area for the SA Branch which is also being proactively addressed by the national Board is the provision of CPD opportunities for regional and rural members. In South Australia we adjusted our CPD program so that we provided several full day CPD events on Fridays, with the aim of making these more accessible for members who have to travel some distance. We noted with pleasure at our recent CPD planning afternoon that these events have been well attended and we plan to repeat this model in the year ahead. We have also taken steps to provide some online CPD opportunities. This project has been beset with difficulties, but we hope that once we have these difficulties sorted out we will have a model that will take us into the future. I want to thank all members of the CPD committee (Sally Watson, Convenor, Arlette Beelitz, Lynne Sellars, Maxine Longford, David Roach and Jennie Charlton) for their commitment to this project. But in particular I want to acknowledge Arlette Beelitz who has challenged us to address the needs of rural and remote members. At the national level significant funding has been gained from the Commonwealth government to provide a series of online workshops on Co-morbidity. These are available to all members through the AASW website.

Financially the 2010-2011 report shows that we had an income of \$10,000 in excess of our expenditure. A frustration of 2010-11 has been the inability of the national office to provide us with information about our financial performance against budget progressively throughout the year. Although this was discussed with at our national telephone conferences of Presidents and despite our vigorous protests about the difficulty of managing services without financial information, there was nothing that could be done. It is pleasing for the AASW that we are reporting a surplus, but the process has been very poor. However we are assured that the ground work done

in 2010-11 will result in better reporting in the year ahead. We have already received some progress reports that confirm this prediction.

Our active membership of the national AASW is enhanced by the close liaison between the Branch Management Committee and the national Board. This year Sue Nesham has been the national director responsible for liaising with South Australia. Sue travelled from her home in Tasmania to join our planning day in January. This was an excellent start to our working relationship and established a partnership that was further developed by Sue's participation in our BMC meetings via teleconference. I thank Sue for her contribution to our Branch over the year.

Another highlight of this year has been the new profile of the Branch Ethics Group. Convened by Tricia Munn, this group (Mark Wilson, Julie O'Leary, Sophie Diamandi and Tim Walsh) have taken up their responsibilities under the new partnership between the national organisation and the branches, and provided a number of Ethics information seminars. One of these was provided by Tricia as a part of our CPD program. However other sessions have been requested by groups of social workers in a variety of organisations and the committee has taken their expertise out to these sites to engage in the important conversations about ethical standards and the new Code of Ethics.

At the last AGM I spoke about the importance of our activities to promote Social Justice. The BMC has decided to create a Social Justice committee to enhance our focus on this and I am pleased that at this AGM members will have an opportunity to nominate to this committee. This committee will be able to provide advice to the BMC on how we should advance our consideration of a Reconciliation Action Plan, commenced in our conversations with Christine King on her recent visit to Adelaide.

In concluding this report I would like to thank the many members who contribute to the life of the AASW in South Australia. The year has been one of high energy and cohesive focus. This can only be achieved by the generous and sustained efforts of many people. I thank each of you, I know from our conversations that you find this involvement with the Association and its social work members stimulating and satisfying and I invite others to join us in the year ahead. There are many opportunities for contribution.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) REPORT

2011 has been a big year for Continuing Professional Development (CPD). A significant change has been the change in name from Continuing Professional Education to Continuing Professional Development. This is to reflect the broad nature of CPD – it is not just about the courses and trainings that we attend, but also the reflective practice we do, supervision, our contribution to the profession and so on. This change was one of the changes that occurred as a result of the Continuing Professional Education Review. The CPD Policy was launched this year, and is now in the process of being implemented. A significant aspect of the implementation is making the policy understandable and usable to members. At the Branch level we will be holding a CPD activity to talk about the changes to CPD.

At the SA Branch level 2011 has seen the continuation of the monthly CPE seminar program. In response to the positive feedback we had about having full day seminars in an attempt to make it more “worthwhile” for our rural and remote colleagues we had three “full day” seminars. In 2010 the full day was divided into two distinct stand alone seminars so people could attend just a half day. In 2011 they were full day seminars. The full day seminars were Mindfulness through Depression, presented by Maxine Longford, Sharing parenting time, post parental separation: Research and Developmental Perspectives presented by Jenn McIntosh and Pendulums of Practice presented by Christine King. We received a very positive response to all these seminars. We also continued with our 2 hours workshops covering a wide range of topics.

February– Rediscovering Ethics – Tricia Munn

April – Telephone supervision – Margaret Morrell

May – Future of Social Work – Lorna Hallahan

July – Learning from consumers and service users – Marie Harries

August – Alone in a Crowd – Mandy Stanley

In addition to our monthly seminars, we have continued to have Margaret Morrell, run supervision courses. This year we ran a Course 1 in October 2011 and March 2011.

In continuing to highlight the importance of supervision in social work the AASW sponsored Margaret Morrell to run "How to get the best from your supervision" course for final year social work students at Flinders University as we had at Uni SA in 2009.

An ongoing challenge for the CPD committee has been to find ways of making our CPD activities accessible to rural and remote social workers. We had one of our sessions professionally videoed and are hoping that this will soon be available for people to access on line. We will be continuing to explore how we can utilise the technology that is available to make CPD more accessible to our rural and remote colleagues.

One of the committee's major new achievements in this year was the development of a CPD calendar which we launched at the Social Work Day Breakfast. This calendar outlined all the activities for the year and was printed in a poster format for people to be able to place in a prominent position in their workplace. We have had very positive feedback to this initiative and will now make the production of the calendar an annual activity. We are exploring other formats in response to feedback.

We have what promises to be an exciting program for 2012 in the planning at the moment.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those on the committee Arlette Beelitz, David Roach, Maxine Longford, Jennie Charlton Sue King and Lynne Sellars and thank them for their support and ideas, without it CPD would not be as strong in SA. If anyone is interested in joining the CPD committee we still have vacancies!

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the enormous amount of work that Kathy Baklan puts into supporting the CPD program. Without her the CPD activities at branch level would just not happen! Kathy's enthusiasm, efficiency and ideas have greatly contributed to the development of CPD in 2011 and she played a key role in getting the printed calendar finalised.

Sally Watson, Convenor

BRANCH ETHICS GROUP REPORT

The first meeting of the new AASWSA Branch Ethics Group (BEG) committee was held on December 20th 2010 and was chaired by the outgoing Convenor Ms Christine Belford. Some time was spent getting to know each other and to develop an understanding of current interests, particularly relating to Ethics and Practice. At this meeting Ms Belford nominated Dr Tricia Munn as the new Convenor. This role was accepted.

It would be remiss to begin this report without expressing our sincere thanks to Ms Christine Belford who ably led the AASWSA BEG through at times a difficult period in the group's history as major changes were rolled out by the AASW and National Ethics Group. The changes considerably altered the role of the state BEG. Christine led the group with great aplomb in her warm and gentle way. Many thanks Christine we do appreciate all of your efforts and commitment to the AASW SA Branch and the AASWSA BEG. We would also like to acknowledge the outgoing members of the BEG, many of whom have worked tirelessly over many years in their role of championing ethics in SA.

Role of the Branch Ethics Group

As a new committee it was believed that we needed to get a good grasp of our role given the state BEG no longer plays a role in the Ethics Complaint System. In short it was discovered that the AASW BEG is a group of members who have responsibility in a particular branch for providing initial consultation on matters of ethical conduct and overseeing the Ethics Education and Policy Development Process. Their role is in initiating and responding to ethics policy and law reform opportunities, which are relevant to the social work profession and our clients. The group also has the role of implementing Ethics education and training in SA.

The year has proven to be both challenging and worthwhile for the committee and especially for myself in the role of convenor. I would like to thank my wonderful committee who have supported and encouraged me in my first year as convenor and have responded good naturedly to the occasional glitches which come from having a convenor who lives 400 kilometres away.

We are a small committee (and would welcome more members in 2012) however together we have strived to promote ethics, in particularly the new Code of Ethics (2010) and offer Ethics Training on request. We have met regularly throughout the year and communicated between meetings as required. We have answered queries about ethics in practice, ethical dilemmas and the ethics complaint process as well as assisting others to commence the complaint process or even complain about the complaints process.

The current situation in Australia is that it is not compulsory for Social Workers to be members of their professional association (the AASW). The AASW can only receive complaints about Social Workers who are members of the AASW. As a profession we need to work towards professional registration so that all social workers need to adhere to the AASW Code of Ethics and the association is able to respond to complaints made against all social workers.

In 2012 we hope to extend the work we have begun in 2011 especially in the area of delivering Ethics Education and Training to organisations throughout South Australia.

Activities at a glance

Date	Activity	By whom
20.12.10	BEG meeting	Committee
15.02.11	CPE Ethics presentation	Tricia Munn
10.03.11-11.03.11	National Ethics Group Workshop	Tricia Munn and NEG Members
22.03.11	BEG meeting	Committee
24.05.11	Ethics training: Child and Youth Disability Services	Tricia Munn (Sophie Diamandi present)
24.05.11	BEG meeting	Committee
26.07.11	BEG meeting	Committee
8.09.11	Ethics Training: Centrelink	Sophie Diamandi (Tim Walsh present)

Tricia Munn, Convenor

EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE GROUP

The inaugural meeting was held at the Education Development Centre facilities in October 2009. Jim Chaousis, the convenor of this special interest group, welcomed a small number of interested members and then gave an overview of the kind of directions the group might want to take in future presentations.

At the second meeting DrGeoffBloor and JimChaousis gave a presentation to a small membership group on the topic of *Setting the Agenda for Evidence-Based Practice* drawing heavily upon Geoff's reflections and conceptualisations.

At the subsequent meeting in 2010, JimChaousis gave a presentation entitled, *A Review of Practice Wisdom – The Neglected Source of Practice Research* drawing on the published work of ProfessorDorothyScott and illustrating her approach to evidence-based practice via one of Jim's case studies. At the fifth meeting PeterSchultz, a practitioner with the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre, gave a presentation with the title *Essence, Evidence and Knowledge Formation in Social Work*. Peter recounted something of his own professional journey in struggling with what it means to be a practitioner committed to evidence-based practice in his work context.

At the sixth meeting TimWalsh, a Senior Practitioner with Domiciliary Care, gave a fascinating presentation based on some prior research with DrGeoffBloor, and titled *Discharge Planning & Community Care – theory, values and evidence*.

At the seventh meeting LindaSims, a Senior Practitioner with Mental Health Services, gave a presentation reflecting on *Further Education, Evidence based Practice and the Social Work in Mental Health Services*. This was attended by a moderate sized membership.

At the eighth meeting, 2011, TimWalsh and MarkWilson, both practitioners with Domiciliary Care, gave a presentation on *Clinical Supervision with Peers: drawing upon a Workshop previously delivered to Country Health SA*.

At our May Meeting, JennieCharlton, a Private Practice Practitioner, presented *Sex Offenders and Contact (access) with Birth Children* to a large number of members.

Towards the end of each year the network of members interested in the EBP Special Interest Group meet to discuss and forward plan a range of activities and speakers for the following years programme. In planning for 2012 interested members were invited to participate in a planning discussion scheduled for Monday 24th October.

The final presenter for 2011 will be DrLornaHallahan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Social Work & Social Planning at FUSA, who will be presenting her perspectives on social work practice and evidence-based practice on Monday 28th November.

All social workers interested in Evidence-based Practice are welcome to attend this program and all programs during 2012.

The membership meet every two months for pizza's and tea and coffee from 5-30pm – 6-00pm. The formal presentation starts at 6-00pm and finishes at 7-30pm.

Jim Chaousis, Convener and Marion Croser

PRIVATE PRACTICE GROUP

This year has been another eventful year for we social workers in private practice – although happily, not quite as eventful as last year. A positive effect of the Better Access Campaign at a branch level has been increased networking amongst the private practitioners. Last year Sue King, our branch president, invited me to join the Branch Management Committee in order to increase representation of private practitioners. This has been a very stimulating and rewarding experience as not only have I enjoyed learning more about the overall activity of the AASW (SA) but have received much appreciated supported by fellow branch members. It has been especially helpful having the ongoing experience of fellow private practitioner, Mary Hood, to draw upon. It has also been a great opportunity to have a voice on state and national issues.

Three meetings have been held in Adelaide for private practitioners this year. Following on from the successful panel meeting last year organised by Mary, a similar meeting was held in May for social workers considering starting private practice. Thanks to fellow panel members: Briony Barton, Deb Lee, Mary Hood and Tony Tonkin. Approximately 30 people attended. Two weeks later, a second meeting was held for social workers already in private practice called “What is the future for social workers in private practice?” Again approx. 30 people attended to hear Deb Lee, our national rep on the Sub Committee for Private Practitioners, present her views. A third meeting is planned for October 18 to update for private practitioners on the newly emerging Medicare Locals that will require practitioners to tender for listing. This 3rd meeting will attract 3 CPD points and will set the foundations for further meetings attracting CPD points for private practitioners.

Private Practitioners have been given the opportunity to respond to a survey regarding how best the Branch can assist SA members and to invite them to become further involved in the national and branch affairs. Thanks to private practitioners Elizabeth Williamson (Port Adelaide) and NielMauriello (North Adelaide) for putting up their hands to join Deb Lee in representing us at a national level.

A listing of private practitioners has been established where members are contacted directly about upcoming meetings. Please let Kathy know at Branch office if you wish to be included on this list.

The Skill Share group co-ordinated by Don Piro has continued to meet bi monthly this year with meeting scheduled to increase to every 6 weeks next year to cater for increased demand. It is primarily a Peer Skills Group established for Private Practitioners who wish to maintain their Mental Health accreditation, CPD points and obtain valuable skills & training from Peers about their practice without any fees involved. All participants are expected to present during the year as part of their commitment to the Group. There have been some great presentations enjoyed by those attending.

Mary will be missed from the Branch Committee next year but thank you for all you have done for we private practitioners and social work in general.

Involvement in the AASW for me has been a juggling act between running my own practice and pursuing my master's thesis. I have learned this year that all representatives are busy - yet it is heartening to reflect upon how participation in representation does increase the effectiveness of our profession for members and clients.

Robyn Lingard

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER NEWSLETTER REPORT

We have produced 4 newsletters over the last year and are now labelling them by season rather than month. The format has also been changed with the aim of making it brighter and more easy to read - this was eventually done without any expense to the Association. Kathy Baklan's skills in re-formatting the newsletter layout with a new banner heading have been greatly appreciated. Any feedback on the new format would be welcome.

There has been a slight increase in the news about rural and remote workers. This has been one of our goals over the last 12 months. We hope to further expand this. **We would like an eye catching photo with a regional flavour to head the section labelled "Regional News". We invite regionally based social workers to send us a photo we may use (jpg format please and send in to Kathy Baklan at AASWSA office)**

Elizabeth Bleby has continued her excellent profiles about experienced social workers and their contribution to the profession in SA. This is creating a history of social work in South Australia

We have formed a group called AASW writers who have met bi-monthly since March 2011 at the SA Writers Centre. Members of this small group have wide-ranging interests in poetry, fiction and non-fiction, drawing specifically on their work experience. The group was originally conceived as a way of stimulating contributions to the branch newsletter. See the first of these in the spring edition.

The branch newsletter has not recently contained much discussion or debate around national issues, such as the Pathways and College of Social Work projects to date. The newsletter continues to provide a possible forum for this and invites and welcomes contributions of opinion and comment.

We would like to thank Kathy Baklan for her cooperation, good humour and tolerance in working with us this year.

Editors: Sally McMichael, Kathy Inverarity

NATIONAL REGISTRATION COMMITTEE

Where does one start in this most important time in the life of social workers and our National Board supporting us to become a Nationally Registered Profession?

This past year I have been involved in our Monthly Telephone Conferences and attended our second Face to Face Meeting on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May at our Melbourne AASW National Office and chaired by our Convenor, Kerry Pennell.

We have all been very committed this past 12 months in progressing towards our aim of seeking National Registration through the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme.

Our work is regularly reported through the National Bulletin and the CEO e-bulletins to all members. The AASW Web Page also provides further information for those interested to see where we are at and we feel that many are using these avenues to be up to date with this.

Over the past year there have been new directions and challenges to overcome with the political scene seeking different aspects regarding registration of all who have not been granted this at this time.

One of the biggest advantages we have in our work towards National Registration is to examine and question the models undertaken by our colleagues in the UK and NZ. In Australia we have the experience of those who have been granted National Registration. We have been in a position to examine what has been working, what have been the advantages, the disadvantages and issues confronting all those professions.

We are still hearing “we should be registered” / “why were we not included in the original list” / “I did not know we were not registered” / “are we going for registration, well about time”.

The reason we were not included is that we did not have a Branch in a State or Territory registered. It could be argued that it has been an advantage that as we are striving in our current situation has given us the opportunity to examine and explore what Registration will actually mean, and to learn from those who have already been granted this so that we have it right.

We have a lot of work still to do, and it was noted from a recent meeting with around 40 politicians present, that many were not aware or not quite sure what ‘Health Workers’ actually do.

There have been submissions and papers presented to our National Board this year for their direction to our work. Our next movements will see us lobbying politicians and senior bureaucrats to educate and inform what we do, how we do it and so on. This is becoming quite an exciting time in our ‘journey’ as we move towards being a fully recognised and registered profession. Keep watching for further news in our Web Pages.

As your State Representative I look forward to hearing from you regarding our work.

Marion Croser— Representative South Australian committee member.

ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SA (AHPSA) COMMITTEE

AASWSA has been represented on the Allied Health Professionals SA (AHPSA) committee throughout 2011 by Marion Croser and Charlotte Trenter. The committee meets quarterly to share national information about the registration/regulation progress of allied health professions that have been approved to participate. Professions represented in this Adelaide branch are Social Work, Medical Imaging, Chiropractics, Occupational Therapy, Dietetics, Radiography, Psychology, Speech Pathology, Pharmacy, Orthotics and Optometry and AHP Committee. The committee is chaired by representatives from SA Health’s Hospital and Allied Health Advisory Committee, who also represent SA on the national AHP committee. This committee sits under and reports to Catherine Turnbull, Chief Allied & Scientific Health Advisor, Department of Health. The major focus for 2011 has been participating in the background work for ensuring the self-regulating professions, including Social Work, have a say in the process of increasing the number of professions moving to national registration by the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS). NRAS has identified Medical Imaging, Chinese Medicine and Aboriginal health Practitioners as professions to become nationally registered in 2012, and Paramedics as likely candidates for the round following that. The AASW has maintained its pressure on NRAS to consider Social Work for national registration so ongoing representation by AASWSA on the AHPSA committee is vital.

Charlotte Trenter and Marion Croser

BREAKFAST NETWORKING

How did all this all begin and where are we now? This idea was first put to our Branch Management Committee around April 2009. Marion heard about this idea that had increased membership and promoted the AASW activities at the National Face to Face Meeting held in Melbourne for Presidents, where she attended to represent the then President who could not attend. Our Queensland members reported that such activity was well received and while attending the Regional Social Work Conference held in Auckland in November, Marion held further discussions with our Queensland counterpart for further advice.

It took some time to organise, with our very first 'pilot' Breakfast being held in October in the North, and since that time has grown as other areas expressed interest and we expanded by organising other Breakfast Meetings in the City and then in the South, and open to all social workers, either financial or non financial members. We meet around 7.15am to 8.45am and pay our own breakfasts.

In the North we meet at the Bakehouse Cafe, Phillip Highway, Elizabeth South with Marion being contact person.

Christine Belford is the contact person for the City group that meets at La Piazza Café on Hindmarsh Square.

As we expanded further we met in the South at the Old Town Cafe, 211 Old South Rd, Reynella. The South is currently needing a new venue that opens around 7.00am.

Sue King graciously attends each breakfast to meet and hear from those attending about their workplace environments and the many and varied social work issues that occur that are important to each person, and to our Branch.

We have experienced some challenges along this journey with a Café opening times being changed without informing our Office and a location was difficult to find, but we kept a solution-focussed attitude and here we are in October 2011, still going strong and still attracting interest from Social Workers who are interested to meet with fellow colleagues and to hear up-to-date information about workplace environments and the ever changing face of our AASW, at both our State and National levels.

One of the values that these 'Breakfast Get-Togethers' have provided is the various opportunities for social workers employed in both government and non-government positions such as, Housing SA, Centrelink, Hospitals, Mental Health, Foster Care, Life Without Barriers, Families SA, Aged Care, MIFSA, NDGP and many other work places, to meet and network.

A second value that these breakfasts give is for us to promote our AASW Branch activities, along with National and International information. We share about such activities as World Social Work Day, our AGM, Regional, National and International Conferences, National Registration Progress and so on.

We look forward to meeting many more during 2012 as we meet at these various breakfast sites. Please look at our webpage and yearly calendar for details of next meetings. We also look forward to hearing from others who would like to create other venues across our metropolitan regions, we need people for the West and Eastern regions.

With over 40 social workers having attended at some time, it can be noted that from our 'pilot' session held in 2009 we have been successful that these functions are a permanent fixture on our yearly calendar of events.

This year we have surveyed all breakfasts participants: their feedback is provided below to give a summary of how well received the breakfast networks are:

1. Convenience to workplace:

77% found the location of the breakfast extremely or very convenient to their workplace
23% found it not at all convenient to their workplace

2. Professionalism of facilitator

100% found their facilitator to be extremely or very professional

3. Opportunity for networking with other Social Workers

100% found the breakfast meeting to be a much better place than at work to network with other Social Workers

4. Breakfast prices

34% found the food prices at their breakfast meeting to be somewhat more reasonable than a usual work lunch
66% found the prices to be about the same as the cost of a usual work lunch

5. Responsiveness of network members

14% found the other network members extremely responsive to them
86% found them very or moderately responsive to them

6. Amount of networking able to be done at breakfast

22% were extremely satisfied with the amount of networking they were able to do at breakfast
78% were moderately or very satisfied with the amount of networking they were able to do at breakfast

7. Happiness with the network group

100% found they liked their group moderately or a great deal

8. Likelihood to recommend attending the breakfast network

100% reported they were extremely or very likely to recommend attending the breakfast network to other Social Workers

Marion Croser, Charlotte Trenter, Sue King

STUDENT-GRADUATE NETWORKING GROUP

This last year has involved more of a focus towards engaging and building relationships with universities and students, rather than just running activities aimed at graduates. There has been a steady increase of graduates and students joining the FACEBOOK site page, including one student from overseas.

We have sought this year to ask students at University what would be helpful to them in such a group. This has been carried out in conjunction with finding out the needs and wishes of current student and graduate group members. We have also begun to initiate this through our increasing numbers of members on the social networking page. Two key issues that were raised by the students and graduates were: the need for supports and the mentoring of new graduates.

There were also a couple of low-key events planned earlier in the year, including one held at a local University. Being planned now are two other larger events that will be held before the end of the year, including a daytime social work gathering and networking activity, which might also meet the needs of international students and those members with families. The other event being planned is an evening 'Welcome to the Profession/End of Year' event.

Some suggested changes for the future have included a further change of name and group membership criteria to better reflect the often-long transition from student to graduate to workforce integration. Other possible changes suggested are nomination of positions to the core organising group-committee.

The active members this year who also helped with practical organization, administration and ideas have been: Apol Braithwaite and Darren Filsell (UniSA Graduates); JalunHaokip and Eunjoo Jun (Flinders Graduates); Rachel Wallis (UniSA Student) and more recently Daniel Maik, a Flinders Student who has just officially joined the group and who will take on a much more active role next year. I am grateful to them all.

Our thanks also goes out to anyone else, including other students and graduates who gave us ideas and thoughts about the group and its future. Of course we are open to new members for the FACEBOOK social networking site and in both the organization and attendance of events. As always we are grateful to the BMC for their support.

The future direction will always depend on input from the AASW and the student and graduate members of this group but we hope that there will also be more discussion with Universities and through the developing Social Work Alumni Associations as well. The focus in the future will continue to involve both social activities and networking for the students and graduates along with continued discussion through the universities and social networking.

Mark Wilson