

swift



social work information, facts and topics

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NSW BRANCH OF AASW

Summer 2010



Enjoy this issue
focusing on Practice Groups



Editorial

I first became involved with a practice group (then special interest group) twenty years ago as a new graduate social worker. Social Workers in AIDS (SWAIDS) served as a crucial forum for information exchange, practice development, education and support. SWAIDS also worked successfully with peak organisations for people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and representatives of government and non-government organisations to address issues such as unrealistically long waiting times for PLWHA requiring stable housing to assist them in managing the health and social crises resulting from a diagnosis with an AIDS defining illness at that time. The networking, information sharing and knowledge gained from activities held by SWAIDS helped shape my practice and assisted me to provide a quality service to clients requiring skilled social work support to assist with complex psychosocial issues. Throughout the changing face of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in NSW, SWAIDS has continued to provide networking, support and education to its members, which has assisted them in their work.

In 2010 SWAIDS and a range of other practice groups represented in this edition of SWIFT, continue to operate in the interests of the members and clients with whom they work.

The activities undertaken by practice groups represented in this edition of SWIFT clearly demonstrate that they:

- facilitate regular and effective forums and communications with members;
- plan, implement and develop a range of localised professional development strategies for members including continuing professional education activities (from AASW By-Laws as amended 2009).

The activities undertaken by practice groups in NSW are varied, but highlight the role of social workers working with vulnerable clients, demonstrate the intersection of practice skills, research and ethical and legal issues in social work practice, as well as responses to the impact of managerialism on client services

provided by government or non-government organisations.

Examples of activities undertaken by practice group members include the Ethics in Aged Care seminar held in conjunction with the AASW Ethics Committee, the Strength 2 Strength Family Resilience Project coordinated by Dr Grahame Simpson, and the Shaken Baby Prevention Project in Western Sydney (in which Martine Simons is involved), include members of the Social Workers in Brain Injury group. Members of the Palliative Care Social Workers group, particularly Julie Garrard, have developed an evidence-based program to improve the experience of clients and carers when palliative care is provided in nursing homes. The research which led to this model was a response to changes in palliative care identified by members of the group. The Directors of Social Work Departments in Principal Referral Hospitals (DSWPRH) group is focused on collectively responding to the changing concerns of social work staff and clients in acute healthcare settings.

Instances are provided which illustrate the value of a formal relationship between practice groups and the AASW, where the linkage with the Association adds weight to comments on a social justice issue highlighted by members of a practice group. At present, operationalisation of the current by-laws is a work in progress. It is hoped that as the structures including colleges of practice and practice groups develop, the relationship between existing NSW practice groups and the NSW Branch continues.

Finally, many thanks to the practice groups and their convenors for contributing to this special edition of SWIFT. I believe that our readers will be inspired by the scope of your involvement in the social work profession.

For comments or enquiries about the NSW Branch relationship with practice groups please contact me through the NSW Branch office.

Grahame Colditz, Guest Editor

Swift

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Please send all contributions to the AASW NSW Branch Office, P.O. Box 838 Glebe NSW 2037, or email newsletter@aswsw.com.au

**AASW (NSW)
BRANCH NEWSLETTER**

Guest Editor: Grahame Colditz

Sub-editor: Tereza Crvenkovic

Design: Breakout Design

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Annie Crowe, Nives Crvenkovic
Tereza Crvenkovic

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AASW NSW Branch,
123A Mitchell St, Glebe, NSW 2037.

New South Wales Branch

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With the President

THE NSW BRANCH HELD A VERY SUCCESSFUL AGM ON THURSDAY 18TH NOVEMBER.

Some 45 members attended and two highlights were a viewing of the Retired Social Workers 'Living Histories' video and presentations from Vittorio Cintio, National Vice President and Dr Pat Hansen Associate Professor and Head, School of Social Work at The Australian Catholic University on the pathways issue.

The new constitution has now been in place for over a year and there have been significant changes to the operations of the NSW Branch as a result. The National Board of Directors has taken a strong lead role in setting priorities for the AASW. All finances are now administered through the central national office.

Improving the profile of the profession as a whole remains a very strong area of focus. This profile has been considerably enhanced with the political win fought for by the AASW and its members in the Better Access to Mental Health programme. I congratulate all those who contributed to this victory and acknowledge the fast, effective response coordinated by Kandie Allen Kelly and Karl Charikar in the national office.

The NSW Branch maintains a solid relationship and open communication lines with the national board and staff. We have representation on a number of National Committees:

- The Ethics Group (Biljana Milosevic)
- The Registration Committee (Grahame Colditz)
- The Continuing Professional Education Committee (Sue Brown)
- The International Qualifications Committee (Satyan Rajamani)
- The Mental Health Project Committee (Annie Crowe)
- The Colleges of Practice Committee (Annie Crowe)
- The Education Committee (Annie Crowe)
- The Branch President's Group (Annie Crowe, convener)

Currently all NSW Branch Committee of Management positions have been filled with Siraj Sarguroh as our Vice President and Kamal Jain as our Treasurer. We have all staff positions filled with Suraya Coorey as our full time office administrator and Nives Crvenkovic as our part time professional officer. It is with great pleasure that we welcome back to our team, Teresa Crvenkovic, in her role as the project officer for SWIFT. The branch's commitment to its membership remains as strong as it has always been and providing membership services is the core business of the branch committee and the staff.

We also have a strong liaison with the other Branches and held a joint planning day with the Hunter Branch on 1st May 2010. This is the first time in forty years that such a meeting has occurred. The Hunter Branch hosted this occasion in fine style. Next year's joint planning day will be held in Sydney.

The NSW budget has been determined for 2010 and at this stage and three of our new initiatives have been approved. We have received funding for:

- The move to new premises,
- The Living Histories Project and

Present also was Jose Abalo, National Director responsible for the NSW Branch.

Photos of this event can be seen on the back pages of this issue of SWIFT.

The annual report is reprinted below so that all the membership can read about the achievements and significant progress that has been made by the NSW Branch over the past year.

- Staff support for SWIFT.

The branch management team is very involved with these priorities with a strategic plan which in part remains unchanged from last year. At the joint planning day with the Hunter Branch the following long term priorities were restated.

1. To increase membership numbers with an active recruitment drive.
2. To maintain strong communication with the members.
3. To respond to the needs of members.
4. To draw up a strategic plan in line with state and national priorities.
5. To maintain good communication between The National Board and The NSW Branch Management Committee.

In addition to this a further set of strategic priorities were drawn up by the NSW Branch

6. To work in collaboration with the Hunter Branch in the areas of CPE and professional development.
7. In collaboration with the colleges of practice to expand and develop the CPE programme.
8. To continue with the Industry nights with a view to holding at least one in a regional centre.
9. To run a forum on ethics known as 'Ethics in the Pub'.
10. To take an active role in consultations around the pathways debate, the colleges of practice and the push towards registration.
11. To develop the 'Living Histories' project with video interviewing and editing.
12. To move to larger premises which incorporate rooms to be leased out to members who are in private practice.

While some of these objectives are long term, others are already in the implementation stage:

- The NSW Ethics Group has been very involved with the development of the new 'Code of Ethics'. These were launched by the Minister for Mental Health and Ageing, Mr Mark Butler, at the national AGM held on 12th November 2010. Biljana Milosevic is convener of the NSW Ethics Group.
- The Promotions Committee, Maria Merle, Amanda Boyd, Biljana Milosevic and Grahame Colditz, has held four industry nights with a total attendance of over 100 people. One of these nights was held in Parramatta and they are keen to run their own nights in future. These events are ongoing every three months.
- The 'Living Histories' Project has commenced with four interviews conducted with members of The Retired Social Workers group. These stories have been edited and reproduced in hard copy for SWIFT. An edit of these four interviews is

being presented later this evening.

- Social Work Day has been celebrated in venues statewide.
- The Registration Committee coordinated by Grahame Colditz continues to work to advocate this issue at all levels of government.
- Grahame Colditz coordinates and liaises with the practice groups and actively seeks clarification as to their position and role within the new structure of the Colleges of Practice. There are currently 12 active practice groups in NSW.
- The Continuing Education Programme, coordinated by Sue Brown, remains one of the most extensive in Australia offering a wide range of educational opportunities. Over the past year six courses have been organised by the branch with a total of 170 participants.
- SWIFT, the NSW branch newsletter continues to be a valuable communication tool and source of information to branch members. This is a quarterly publication.

These priorities and current activities line up well with those stated at the face to face meeting between branch presidents and the board held last weekend. The following four areas as the 'pillars of future development for the AASW' were identified:

1. The establishment of the colleges of practice.
2. Continuing professional education.
3. The opening up of new pathways to expand the membership of the AASW.
4. Branch development.

Jose Abalo will speak to these and other national issues in his report.

The support of Kandie Allen-Kelly, CEO of The AASW National Board and the staff is acknowledged. The NSW branch team and the national team enjoy active, positive lines of communication. Jose Abalo, our national director has maintained a good relationship with the branch, attended all branch committee meetings and kept us well informed of developments on the national front. We thank him for his enthusiastic support of the NSW branch.

The branch has strong links with the Universities in NSW. Maria Merle sits on the advisory board of the ACU and committee members have been out to talk to students from The University of Sydney, The University of NSW and the University of Western Sydney as well as the ACU.

And on the international front the NSW branch has hosted three delegations from China, some forty people in all. The delegation expressed a great interest in developing Social Work in China. They were keen that people join the profession and asked how they might promote Social Work in China. This is a very difficult question to answer.

Continued next page



From the Director's Desk

The last 12 months have been busy for your Association. Since joining your Branch as the National Director to take your views and issues to the AASW Board, we have taken a number of significant steps to address some of the strategic areas of the Association.

In the April 2010 meeting the Board of Director decided to pursue the strategic objective known as 'Building Social Work Australia'. This was outlined in the Winter edition of the National Bulletin (see www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/715).

The Board has made the following decisions during the last 12 months:

- the launch in 2011 of the Australian College of Social Work;
- to actively pursue a national system of regulation for the community services sector;
- continue to seek registration of title for social workers;
- as well as a major consultation process regarding the Pathways project;
- to continue to support the further development of our 10 Branches, through things such as successful CPE programs.

The Australian College of Social Work will be launched on the 1st of July 2011. Its first division will be the division of Mental Health.

More information can be found here: www.aasw.asn.au/document/item/275

The Board is currently undertaking a wide range consultation with all National Committees and Branches regarding the Pathways Project. For more detailed information about the Pathways please refer to the following link: www.aasw.asn.au/whatwedo/consultations-pathways At its November 2009 meeting the Board decided to create a new Committee, titled Membership Committee of which I am the Chair. It is important to note that this committee has as one of its members a Branch President – David McNamara, from the Hunter Branch – who is the linking link from the Branches to this Committee and therefore to the Board. This committee has developed a pamphlet as well as a member card – which most of you would have received by now.

The committee is committed to providing the best possible resources for its members, from a better web presence to material to support Branches to better engage with its members as well as with industry partners and when attending Universities.

In the area of advocacy we should highlight the AASW works with lobbying the National Health Workforce Taskforce which has led to social workers who provide clinical placements will be able to attract subsidies for doing this task.

The AASW also has successfully lobbied the Federal government for the inclusion of social work in the Skilled Migration List. Significant work has been undertaken in regards to the Better Access to Mental Health care and ATAPS. The AASW was able to get the Federal Government to revert an initial decision to close the access under the Medicare program to social workers. Access to this program is now open till 1st July 2011 and more importantly the AASW is part of a Ministerial group advising the Federal Minister of Health regarding these programs. It should be noted here that the quick action of many members from around the country in contacting their local MPs was extremely effective in bringing a reversal of the initial governmental policy intentions in this area of mental health. We have also seen the successful implementation of electronic web voting for all the position within the AASW – both National and at Branch level. There are still many challenges that lie ahead for us all at the AASW. I encourage all the NSW Branch members to contact me with their issues and ideas to continue to improve the services that the AASW can provide to all of its members. I can be contacted via email at jose@abalo.org

Jose Abalo, AASW Director

With the President (continued)

I take this opportunity to thank our great staff, Suraya, Nives and Tereza. These people make all our work possible. To the members of the Branch Management Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers, I say thank you.

And to the membership I say, it is all of you that makes this association of Social Workers vibrant and relevant. Your involvement and your trust in the Branch is the most valuable thing we can have.

On behalf of The NSW Branch Management Team, I wish you, your family and friends all the very best of the coming holiday season. I leave you with this thought:

'We may not have it all together, but together we have it all.' Happy Christmas and a New Year full of joy and wonder to you all.

Annie Crowe, President
AASW NSW Branch

CORRECTION

The Spring 2010 edition of *SWIFT* incorrectly attributed photography to Leith Cooper and Nives Crvenkovic. Photos from the Sydney University 70th Anniversary celebration were in fact taken by the Happy Medium Photo Co. We apologise for the error.

SWIFT Editorial Team

Shoalhaven Social Work Action Group Shoalhaven Social Work Action Group (SWAG) is alive and well!

At its November meeting, the group heard from Michelle Moulos regarding the Medicare rate adventure. Next meeting is planned for Tuesday 15 February 2011 over lunch from noon to 2pm at the Coastal Indulgence Cafe, Milton. Email Naomi.spencer@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au or phone 0457 796 744 to RSVP interest.

Naomi Spencer

AASW NSW BRANCH Management Committee

PRESIDENT

Annie Crowe
anniecrowe@hotmail.com

DIRECTOR

Jose Abalo
jose@abalo.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Siraj Sarguroh
sirajsarguroh@hotmail.com

TREASURER

Kamal Jain
natgem@hotmail.com

PROMOTIONS

Amanda Boyd
amandaboydro@bigpond.com
Maria Merle
mitchymerle@hotmail.com
Biljana Milosevic
bil_m@hotmail.com

EDUCATION

Sue Brown
susiebrown9999@hotmail.com
Suzanne Noisen
suzanne_noisen@hotmail.com

REGISTRATION

Grahame Colditz
grahamegh@gmail.com

PRACTICE GROUPS

Grahame Colditz
grahamegh@gmail.com

ETHICS

Biljana Milosevic
bil_m@hotmail.com

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Mohini Prasad
medilinkcounselling@bigpond.com
Rajamani Rajan
satyan@optusnet.com.au

NSW BRANCH SUB-COMMITTEES

Professional Education

Convenor: Sue Brown
susiebrown9999@hotmail.com

Registration

Convenor: Grahame Colditz
grahamegh@gmail.com

Newsletter

Editor: Annie Crowe
anniecrowe@hotmail.com

Practice Groups

Convenors: Grahame Colditz
grahamegh@gmail.com

Promotions

Convenor: Amanda Boyd
amandaboyd10@bigpond.com

NSW Branch Ethics Group

Convenor: Bijana Milosevic
bil_m@hotmail.com

If you have any ideas or concerns you'd like to discuss, or if you're interested in joining one of the branch sub-committees or the NSW Branch Ethics Group, please contact the appropriate convenor.

AASW NSW Branch Office details

123a Mitchell Street, Glebe
(cnr Derwent St – enter from Derwent St)

Mail: PO Box 838 Glebe NSW 2037

Tel: 02 9518 4944

Fax: 02 9552 3005

Email: info@aaswnsw.com.au

Staff: Suraya Coorey (Office Administrator)
Nives Crvenkovic (Professional Officer)
Tereza Crvenkovic (Project Officer)

Public Transport: Catch a train to either Town Hall or Central station. From there, catch the 431 or 433. Once you reach Glebe Point Rd, alight at the first stop (cnr Glebe Point Rd and Mitchell St).

Parking: Four-hour metered parking outside the venue (\$2.20 per hour)

Resources: The AASW NSW Branch Office has a variety of social work journals and newsletters from 1958 to the present; conference papers dating from 1947; papers presented to the NSW BMC in the 1960s; NSW Branch Annual Reports; NSW BMC minutes and miscellaneous information from national office.

If you would like to use these resources for research, please call the AASW NSW Branch Office.

Fertility Practice Group

As members of the local (NSW) branch of ANZICA (Australia and New Zealand Infertility Counsellors Association), our group comprises counsellors, both social workers and psychologists, working within public and private fertility clinics or in private practice.

Policy Development

Each state is represented on the ANZICA executive committee and one committee member is represented on the Board of the Fertility Society of Australia (FSA). By this mechanism, counsellors are able to contribute to policy development in the area of assisted reproductive technology (ART). This year ANZICA members wrote submissions individually and through FSA to the Senate Enquiry into Donor Conception, which is reviewing past and present practice of donor conception across the country.

2010 has been significant in NSW with the implementation from January 2010 of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Act, NSW (2007). By establishing a central register, the Act gives rights to donor conceived individuals to information about their donor when they are 18, though this is not retrospective. The Department of Health will also establish a voluntary register for donors and offspring conceived prior to the Act. Over previous years ANZICA NSW had prepared submissions lobbying strongly for this right. This piece of legislation also requires that counselling services are available to any couple seeking ART through a clinic which is registered under the Act and ensures professional standards of those providing counselling services.

ANZICA members have also made

submissions both jointly and independently to law reform in relation to surrogacy across the states. The NSW Surrogacy Bill 2010, which has now been tabled in parliament, allows for parentage orders to be sought in favour of the commissioning or intended parents and stipulates the pre-conditions for obtaining such orders.

Professional Development

ANZICA also functions as a means of professional development, organising a mid-year workshop as well as a workshop as part of the FSA Annual Conference.

In May this year ANZICA celebrated twenty-one years since its formation, meeting at the Hyatt Hotel, Canberra, where the original group was formed. We reviewed changes in ART legislation across the states and the impact on counselling practice. What emerged was significant inter-state variation in regulations and service provision.

In October, the highlight of FSA 2010 from a counsellor's point of view were talks by Jacky Boivin, senior lecturer, school of psychology at Cardiff University. She talked about the psychological burden of IVF treatment and impact that counsellors could have on the 'drop out' rate. Psychosocial interventions need to be evidence-based and situation-specific in order to have the most benefit to patients undergoing treatment. As counselling is often not taken up by IVF patients, novel ways of

meeting their needs have to be sought.

In addition, our branch has met twice this year. At our first meeting in March, held at Sydney IVF, we had an excellent panel of speakers to talk on adoption and permanent care as options to create a family. Changes in the NSW Adoption Act 2000 now allow couples to apply for adoption whilst they are undergoing fertility treatment. Speakers were Sonali Abenaike, from Centacare Adoption Services, Amanda Whitbread from Local Adoption and Community Care, NSW Community Services and Suzanne Cavalla from Intercountry Adoptions. They presented an overview of the current intake process and criteria for assessment and the statistical realities of adoption and permanent care. The discussion reflected the specialised but complimentary nature of work in areas of adoption and fertility, and the meeting formed the basis of a recommendation for ongoing dialogue between counsellors in fertility units and adoption workers. The second meeting in August took place at IVF Australia, with Helen Golding speaking on Emotionally Focused Therapy.

Our final meeting for the year, in keeping with tradition, will be a pre-Christmas breakfast, when we will plan our meetings and focus for 2011.

Christine Singleton

Christine.singleton@sydneyivf.com

Share the power of a Wish

Every child and adolescent deserves the opportunity for their Wishes to come true.

Make-A-Wish® Australia grants the cherished Wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions. A Wish is filled with magic, hope and joy. The entire Wish process – from the planning, to the anticipation, to the Wish itself, and the memories that it creates – provides an exciting and welcome diversion from daily challenges, medical treatments and hospital admissions. A Wish is a positive experience for the entire family, brightening the day with laughter and smiles.

Wishes come in many shapes and sizes; they're as diverse as a child's imagination. The magic begins when a child utters the words 'I Wish...'

'I wish to BE'... a policeman or a ballerina for a day

'I wish to HAVE'... a laptop computer or dirt bike

'I wish to MEET'... a favourite rock star or celebrity

'I wish to GO'... on a holiday to a favourite destination (overseas Wishes are available to children 10 and over) Children and teenagers aged from three up to 18 years (applications must be received prior to applicant's 18th birthday) with a life-threatening medical condition are able to apply for a Wish. It is a fun time in which the whole family can take part. Children under the age of three may apply for a 'Wish Hamper' which is a selection of wonderful age appropriate toys. When a Wish hamper recipient turns three they may apply for a full Wish if still medically eligible.

Do you know a child or adolescent who may be eligible for a Wish? You can help a child have their cherished Wish granted by giving them a Wish application form and encouraging them to apply.

To find out more about Make-A-Wish visit

www.makeawish.org.au or telephone 1800 032 260.

Obstetric Social Work Practice Group

The Obstetric Social Work Group began as a luncheon meeting held at Crown Street Women's Hospital on 13 November 1969.

The social workers who attended had such a lively discussion that they voted to continue meeting monthly. We have archive material and minutes that show they didn't hesitate to confront the big issues of their day: access to abortion, the rights of the single mother, adoption practices... the common themes of women's reproductive lives.

The group has continued to meet. We hold meetings four times a year, and vary the venue between the major city hospitals in the interests of sharing the travelling. The group has two main aims – networking and skill development – and we hope we fulfil them both.

We act as a space for social workers to network, share information and meet colleagues who are dealing with the same issues at work. Sometimes workers are new to their role or in an isolated position. Sometimes teams go through times of staff shortage or increased demands. It's been great to have a venue where we can share our approaches to

managing different practice dilemmas and to hear about new initiatives. We've provided input on behalf of the AASW e.g. on the NSW Health enquiry into the management of miscarriage in hospitals.

Each meeting has an invited guest speaker on a topic we're keen to explore. Women's reproductive lives bring drama and stresses, so we are never short of issues to discuss: attachment, adoption, child protection, domestic violence, migration, perinatal mental health, perinatal loss and bereavement. We've chosen to hold longer meetings less frequently so we can provide a good quality session on a clinical practice issue or new research: e.g. the management of anxiety; advances in clinical practice with men and women after the loss of a baby; pregnancy and refugee health; new DVDs on adoption, bereavement and attachment – the list goes on and the subjects uncannily echo the timeless themes of women's lives.

The past year has been a time of transition as we've moved to adopt the more formal structure of a Social Work Practice Group. We are keen to keep providing a space for the reflective practice and inquiry that started so long ago in Crown Street. We are also open to thinking about other ways of reaching maternity social workers, to make sure what we are offering will inspire and encourage you as you rush along the hospital corridors to your next clients!

If you'd like to become a member, please contact us for a membership form and a copy of the Terms of Reference. You can receive the minutes even if it's hard to get to every meeting. This year the Convenor is Sheila Sim and Secretary Anne Mayo – both at the Royal Hospital for Women. Our secretary Helia Rocha will be pleased to put you on the mailing list:

Phone 02 9382 6670 or email:

helia.rocha@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Sheila Sim

Psychodynamic Practice Group

The Psychodynamic Practice Group has now completed its fourth year as a reading group. Membership has continued to grow and the feedback from members has been very positive.

The aim of the group is to provide an opportunity to explore and discuss the ways in which psychodynamic thinking can be applied to social work practice. Group members come from a variety of practice areas and this breadth of experience is brought to bear on the discussions.

Many of the concepts of psychodynamic thinking are applicable to all levels of social work. The ideas can help inform our thinking on individual, family, group, organisational and social policy areas.

So far this year we have met four times and a fifth meeting is planned at the time of writing. We have read and discussed the following articles:

- 'The Missing Link: Parental Sexuality in the Oedipus Complex.' By Ronald Britton from *The Oedipus Complex Today*. Using theoretical and clinical material, Britton examines this crucial stage of development and its implications for mental health in terms of attachment and separation, managing feelings of loss and jealousy and the

ability to be self-observant and reflective. This article is particularly relevant for family work.

- 'Unbearable Ecstasy, Reverence and Awe, and the Perpetuation of an Aesthetic Conflict' by Judith Mitrani. This paper looks at the very early experiences of the new baby, where intense body experiences (both good and bad) are understood and managed by the mother. The emphasis is on the important distinction between defensive idealisation and genuine love and awe. Mitrani argues that our capacity to love ourselves and others can depend on the way our loving feelings are dealt with at this early time.
- *The Gendered Unconscious. Can Gender Discourses Subvert Psychoanalysis?* By Louise Gyler. The group has been working its way through this new book and by the end of the year will have studied the first three chapters. We have been very fortunate to have Louise present at two of the meetings. It has been a great opportunity to hear from her about the development of

the book and to have her guidance in exploring the concepts. The book looks at 'traditional' psychoanalytic models and compares and contrasts with feminist psychoanalysis. The reading has generated some lively discussion about the impact of cultural norms on the development of theoretical approaches and the ways in which often very subtle and unconscious gender assumptions can impact on our work.

The reading group is open to new members and anyone interested is welcome to attend any or all of the meetings. Meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.30 p.m. at Tess Hayward's home in Balmain. Thank you to Tess for providing such a warm and welcoming 'home' for the group. The timetable for 2011 will be available at the beginning of next year.

If you are interested in attending or have any queries, please contact Diane Bell on 0415204107.

Cate Osborn

Palliative Care Social Workers Practice Group

Our beginnings

I recall clearly the conversation with Janet Doube then Palliative Care Social Worker, Northern Beaches, about a particularly challenging situation of a young client who was struggling in the wake of brain secondaries to be independent, without a home or income. From this collegial discussion about the solitary nature and complexity of our work it was decided to float the idea of palliative care social workers coming together more regularly for professional support and information sharing.

On 7 May 1996 a small but enthusiastic group met in the grounds of the Macquarie Hospital. The Palliative Care Social Workers Special Interest Group for social workers working with palliative patients in hospice, community and hospital settings was formed. We agreed that our charter was to enable:

- Exchange and dissemination of information
- A forum for interchange of ideas
- Professional support and stimulus
- Professional education specific to areas of practice
- Advocacy.

Quick to gain momentum, meeting in rotating venues yielded the opportunity to enhance familiarity with our respective settings and ensured a wide variety of guest speakers.

Identifying 33 areas of common concern, the group has met enthusiastically thrice yearly for almost fifteen years. It has provided the impetus for collaborative work and evidence-based practice in relocation stress for palliative patients, developing KPIs for palliative care social work – a state wide study – and writing for publication. Our members have been inspired to do conference presentations for state, national and international palliative care conferences. Trish Mc Kinnon. Sacred Heart Hospice.

A recent voice survey about our group said – ‘instant source of support, information and current research for social workers new to palliative care,’ ‘mentoring and collegial support,’ ‘energizing,’ ‘being inspired by experienced and energetic palliative care social workers,’ ‘updating resources, information and skills.’

Research outcomes: Big things can grow from small things. It is important for social workers to collect data and report it in order to effect changes for our clients!

At our November 2000 meeting the group identified a major clinical concern regarding the negative impact of discussions about transfer to nursing

home from a palliative care unit on patients and families. The group considered that these discussions caused enormous distress and that those patients who were transferred often died quickly after transfer to a nursing home.

A research working party was formed, led by Julie Garrard, Calvary Health Sydney. Data was collected on the survival after the transfer of 157 patients to nursing homes from six Sydney palliative care units and a sample of interviews with bereaved relatives was conducted. The findings were strongly negative. This evidence enabled us to lobby for changes in practice. The results were presented widely at conferences and to our services.

In 2006 Julie Garrard received a grant from the Australian Government to develop a model of care to improve this aspect of clinical practice in partnership with two local nursing homes and the divisions of general practice. Over the three-year project, Julie was able to show greatly improved outcomes for patients and families by ensuring careful selection of suitable patients for transfer, realistic preparation for the transfer and follow-up in the nursing homes by the Calvary social worker, volunteer visitors, pastoral care workers and community nurses if needed. The partner nursing homes grew in their capacity to care for palliative patients and the patients lived longer after the transfer.

This successful model has been widely promoted and discussed with fellow researchers in Australia and overseas through an International Sabbatical Grant from the Cancer Institute NSW in 2008 received by Julie Garrard. While being considered by palliative care professionals as an ideal model, it is not always possible to implement due to lack of adequate social work resources. Julie has been a strong advocate to increase resources to allow services to implement this model. Calvary is now in receipt of three years of COAG funding to sub-acute services to employ a social worker and community nurse to continue to improve palliative care in nursing homes, including through the transition from the palliative care unit.

Julie also received a Cancer Institute Psycho-oncology Clinical Fellowship (Cancer Institute NSW) in 2009 to further this research. This multi-site study focuses on the impact of changes in care planning at the end of life when transfer to nursing is raised but does not occur because the patient quickly deteriorates and dies. Julie has commenced reporting the results and hopes this research will change some practices in this area

and avoid unnecessary distress to dying patients and their families.

Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work

In 2009 Julie Garrard was approached to write a chapter for the inaugural Oxford Textbook of Palliative Social Work outlining Palliative Care social work in Australia. Sue Hearn from HammondCare Health & Hospitals, Trish McKinnon from Sacred Heart Hospice and Julie Greathouse from Westmead Children’s Hospital joined Julie in this challenging but affirming experience to contribute to this important book on behalf of our Australian colleagues. This textbook will be published in February 2011.

Conference Presentations

Montreal Palliative Care Conference October 2010

Julie Garrard Calvary Health Care Sydney

Presentation: Transition to Nursing Home from a Palliative Care Unit
Poster: Domestic Violence and Elder Abuse in Palliative Care

Palliative Care NSW Conference November 2010

Elaine Gay HammondCare Health & Hospitals Greenwich
Winning Poster: Therapeutic Reminiscence Snapshot – Photo Project

Jenny Downes HammondCare Health & Hospitals Braeside Hospital
Presentation: Student Placement – A Means of Educating the Future Workforce Regarding Palliative Care

A Present and Future Challenge: The Role of Palliative Care in Addressing the Holistic Health Needs of the General Population

Running an Educational Program for Palliative Care Patients and their Carers (jointly with Edite Tang HammondCare Health & Hospitals Braeside Hospital)

Julie Garrard Calvary Health Sydney
‘The System Let You Down:’ Bereaved Family Carers’ Responses to Uncertainty at the End of Life
Poster: Making the Impossible Possible.
A case study about a patient who was so unhappy after being transferred to a nursing home that her daughter took her home against all advice, succeeding with the help of the multidisciplinary palliative care team.
Please contact any of the authors for further information.

Continued next page

Palliative Care Social Workers Practice Group

Oncology Social Workers of Australia Conference Melbourne November 2010
Julie Garrard Calvary Health Sydney
Presentation: 'The System Let You Down: Bereaved Family Carers' Responses to Uncertainty at the End of Life

A sample of our meetings

There is always something new to learn. On 28 June 2010, an Asbestos forum was held along with our regular practice group meeting. Presentations were made by Dr Anthony Johnson, respiratory physician, Ms Joanne Wade (solicitor) and Ms Kathryn Turner (social worker) both from Slater and Gordon. It was a very interesting day, full of new learning. One of the more exciting revelations was that patients with a Dust Disease, such as Mesothelioma, can apply through the Dust Diseases Tribunal for personal damages as well as the more familiar, work-related compensation, available through the Dust Diseases Board. A sum-

mary of learning from the day has been written into an information sheet for use by social workers. A collaborative project is currently underway with the Social Workers in Oncology group to produce an information brochure for patients and families. Brendan Myhill, St Josephs

On 27 October 2010 the Cancer Council NSW presented about two new services – the Legal Referral Service and the Financial Planning Referral Service. Both services are free for cancer patients, and in some cases their family members, where they cannot afford the cost of paid advice. Patients can access services including will drafting, assistance with early access to superannuation, debt management, employment advice and more.

Did you know that patients in financial hardship may be entitled to a short-term variation to the terms of their loan contracts, and if the variation is not granted by the lender, they can complain to an external dispute resolution scheme? The

Cancer Council's Legal Referral Service can assist patients to navigate this often complex area of law.

Both services are already available in many areas, and will be rolled out across NSW in the first half of 2011. To find out if the services are available in your area, or for more information, contact the Cancer Council Professional Services Coordinator, Louisa Fitz-Gerald, louisaf@nswcc.org.au

Plans for 2011

Our first meeting will be in March at St Josephs Auburn and will be looking at key performance outcomes and clinical competencies. Watch this space. Please be in touch if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Sue Hearn

HammondCare Health & Hospitals
Greenwich Hospital
shearn@nswccahs.health.nsw.gov.au

Directors of Social Work Departments in Principal Referral Hospitals (DSWPRH)

This special interest group comprises the Directors of Social Work from NSW peer hospitals at the Principal Referral level. There are eighteen hospitals in this category. The group meets every six weeks to discuss all matters relating to Social Work in Health. We link with the NSW Health Social Work Advisors group, which covers all of NSW.

The group provides leadership and direction in the development of social work practice and knowledge which is responsive to the needs of health care consumers and to the changing context of health care. We are proactive in providing comment on the development of health care policies, practices and procedures. In recent times we have provided advice on end of life care, child protection policy, clinical governance and clinical placement management. We also provide comment to the AASW on matters relating to social work in health.

There continues to be a scarcity of social workers in NSW, and new graduates have a wide range of career choices. We aim to develop and main-

tain relationships with social work program directors at universities so that social work in health remains a preferred choice for new graduates. Facilitating positive student experiences in health is also a key role for the group in its discussions with the tertiary education sector.

Industrial matters are also central for the group since the new industrial award commenced in November 2007. The aAward now provides a career path for clinical specialists in social work, along with better remuneration. Our group has developed a set of generic duty statements covering the new award categories to ensure clarity and consistency across NSW Health.

The group is also a forum for collegial support, interchange of ideas and dissemination of information related to social work practice in hospitals.

We have been meeting since 1981 and have seen many changes to the NSW health system. Many members of the group have been in their positions through myriad restructures and realignments. Being able to develop and use consistent responses to restructure challenges has been a major support factor for the group members and allows us to have the strength of numbers when confronting similar issues in our Area Health Services.

Kate Baker

Social Workers in Aged Care Practice Group

The Social Workers in Aged Care Practice Group in its current form began over twelve years ago as the Social Workers in Aged Care Special Interest Group.

Some long-term members however, believe that the group has been running for nearly twenty years. No matter how long the group has been in existence, it has always had a dedicated and committed membership of social workers who work or are interested in a variety of areas which incorporate some aspects of aged care or have it as the main focus. Currently, members work in Aged Care Assessment Teams, public and private hospitals including rehabilitation hospitals, palliative care, Uniting Care Ageing, the Guardianship Tribunal and Office of the Protective Commissioner, to name a few.

Social workers from a variety of community organisations also attend. Participants include those in private practice, consultants, locum social workers or a few who have retired from paid employment. Social Work students are always welcome to the meetings, and have regularly attended over many years.

Aged Care is a vast and growing field incorporating a variety of practice issues, which is reflected in the topics and speakers who have been invited to the meetings over the years. Each meeting usually begins with introductions and information exchange, then morning tea and a speaker. Information exchange and networking is a vitally important component of each meeting, and this informal aspect often provides opportunities for catching up with colleagues, or coming up with new ideas for future topics for discussion or potential speakers.

In the 1990s, the group began meeting at Montefiore Jewish Home at Hunters Hill, then met on the campus at Macquarie Hospital courtesy of NSW Health and Alzheimer's Australia. We are now back at Montefiore Hunters Hill, a wonderful venue for which we are grateful. In the past few years, we have had meetings at other venues such as Liverpool Hospital and Montefiore, Randwick, to enable social workers from other areas to attend. We are profoundly grateful for each of the hospitals and organisations who have welcomed and supported us over many years, and would also like to thank the speakers for their time in providing us with stimulating information about their up-to-date research or knowledge and practice.

Membership has been remarkably consistent, with a list at present of about ninety, and attendance of between twenty to thirty members at each meeting, depending on the topic or time of year.

One change from the beginning is that minutes and other relevant information are sent via email rather than using the post. It is much easier for the small committee to disseminate information quickly and easily using this method. This can be seen in the recent uproar which occurred with regard to the intention of the Federal Government to have social workers and occupational therapists excluded from Medicare under Better Outcomes for Mental Health. Part of the campaign from this practice group's point of view was that our outrage could be communicated quickly so that we could sign petitions or contact our local members quickly

AGED CARE IS A VAST AND GROWING FIELD INCORPORATING A VARIETY OF PRACTICE ISSUES, WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE TOPICS AND SPEAKERS WHO HAVE BEEN INVITED TO THE MEETINGS OVER THE YEARS.

and effectively. Our practice group has participants who are highly involved in this issue and report back regularly on progress and impending changes of government policy.

As usual, 2010 has been a busy year, beginning in February with the social workers at Montefiore, Randwick discussing their work on the development of an Advanced Care Directive. In April the Ethics in Aged Care Social Work Practice one-day seminar was held at Liverpool Hospital, and was reported in the Spring 2010 edition of SWIFT. The seminar was very well received and one of the speakers, Julie Garrard from Calvary followed up her presentation by speaking at the Practice Group in August on her research regarding the transfer of patients from palliative care

to nursing homes.

In June, Pauline Armour gave us an update on Care Policy Changes and their implications, a subject of great importance to all of us who rely on good quality community services to assist older people at home. Pauline has kept us up-to-date with policy changes over the years, and currently with the Productivity Commission Caring for Older Australians Inquiry, with all the relevant websites and links.

In October, Karen Heycox from the University of NSW discussed her recent publication, *Older People, Ageing and Social Work*, with Mark Hughes. At the final meeting of the year at Liverpool Hospital, Grahame Simpson PhD will discuss the topic of building neuroliteracy in aged care social work. It will be held at Liverpool Hospital, and everyone is welcome to attend in order to learn more about this interesting field.

Perusing the minutes of the Social Workers in Aged Care practice group over the years, it is clear how up-to-date the group is regarding issues of significance to working in the field of aged care. In 2002 for instance, following discussions in the International Year of the Older Person, the Practice Group produced a booklet under the auspices of the AASW NSW Branch, 'Social Work with Older Persons.' This document looks at the role of social work with older persons and gives an overview of the values, principles of practice, philosophy and knowledge. It remains an extremely valuable publication and provides a good basis for understanding the field in which we work.

Recent discussions have been concerned with for instance ethics, end of life decisions, dementia, guardianship, advance care directives and younger people in residential aged care. As social workers in the aged care field we need to keep abreast of changes in policy, new trends, knowledge and practice. The Social Workers in Aged Care practice group plays a vitally important role in this, and will continue to do so. In this respect, different representatives have attended NCOSS's Aged Care Alliance meetings which explore and act on issues relevant to older people.

The Practice Group has a very small committee who organize all the meetings and workshops. New members are always welcome, as are creative ideas and input about future discussions and directions.

Christine Sanderson

Social Workers in Private Practice (SWIPP)

Congratulations to all those social workers who participated and campaigned for the reversal of the decision regarding Social Workers and the Medicare Better Access program.

The Department of Health & Ageing cut Social Workers and Occupational Therapists from providing care to their clients under the Better Access program, but allowed Clinical Psychologists to continue to provide care under the same program. This outraged social workers in private practice, and together with AASW National, our group has actively engaged in making a stand to reverse the Government's decision.

This is a historic win and an achievement for all social work professionals. It was a vigorous fight to defend our professional integrity as much as a fight for our clients' rights to access mental health care under the Better Access program. This win highlights the primacy of social work principles and values, namely, the necessity to stand up and voice social injustice.

A celebration dinner will be organised for all those social workers who fiercely campaigned to restore the Better Access mental health program and Medicare in private practice. The social workers involved in this campaign have demonstrated strength and solidarity in speaking up against the unfair decision made by the Government. The decision to keep Clinical Psychologists and slash Social Workers and OTs from the Better Access program seems to lack basis, as we are just as well qualified and trained to provide mental health care. So what was it that prompted the government to keep

Clinical Psychologists and not us? SWIPP will be pursuing this and ensuring we stand strongly on issues of service provision in Mental Health Care.

I must say it was almost surreal to read the good news via email! What a sweet victory for all of us. Messages of triumph were being exchanged among members beginning on 12 November. My feelings were close to euphoria and I can confidently state that this was the same sentiment experienced by others in private practice.

The endless meetings were hard work and tested our abilities against frustration and despair. The campaign required a lot of energy, but everything was put aside to keep the focus on steering this campaign. This is a historic win and a boost for social workers engaged in private practice. There is a lot more work to do to ensure mental health gets just as much focus as disease prevention models in Medical and Health Science, and that these disciplines include the broader social aspects of the individual's emotional, spiritual and social wellbeing, when considering treatment options.

The social workers in private practice will continue to improve mental health services, networking among social workers and other allied health professionals. We also participate in Training and Skills development programs with Slater & Gordon law firm every month. The educational and skills development training

has been based on the needs and demands of social workers in private practice. The courses that have been organised are Client Confidentiality, Motor Vehicles Accident and Injury and Compensation, and patients' rights to health services. There will also be an upcoming seminar on Work Cover. All courses attract CPE points.

Some social workers also link up with the Mental Health Professional Network for meeting allied health professionals, to share referrals and as an educational session about their practices.

The group dynamics change and revolve as the demands of the private practitioners change. These changes are challenging for me, but the positive side of this is that it offers flexibility and an opportunity to listen, engage, support and reduce isolation of private practitioners.

The Social Work Private Practice Group is a support group for social workers who are in private practice. Most of us are registered with Medicare Australia to provide mental health services to our clients. The group consists of eighty-five members and meets monthly to discuss issues and concerns of private practitioners in New South Wales. This group is growing rapidly and those wishing to join are welcome. Please contact swipp@googlegroups.com.au

Ms Mohini Prasad

Mental Health Social Workers Practice Group

The Mental Health Social Workers Practice Group continues to meet quarterly, with a mix of social workers from a range of practice fields including community mental health, inpatient mental health as well as project and policy positions.

Whilst the group has mainly been made up of social workers from NSW Health, we have also had representation from NGOs and other agencies.

The group has been meeting at Concord Centre for Mental Health for the past two years and the format of meetings has included an information sharing/current issues session followed by a guest speaker. More recently there has been interest in members of the group presenting their own work. At other times, work has also been undertaken to highlight issues impacting on the group e.g. recent changes to the Mental Health Act

and practice implications for social workers.

Members of the group attended the 6th International Social in Health and Mental Health Conference, Dublin, Ireland in June 2010, and presented papers at this conference.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 24 November 2010. Presenters: Raymond Selvaraj on 'Case Manager or Crisis Manager' and Maïke Kaehler on 'Promoting Psychosocial Health in an Inpatient Setting.'

Other guest speakers this year have included:

Belinda Mawhinney Coordinator, Child Wellbeing, SSWAHS

Selina Thomas, Coordinator, Severe Domestic Squalor Project, Mental Health and Disability Services, Waterloo

Diandra Dunne 'Successfully Leaving Homelessness' & Maïke Kaehler 'Supporting Children of Parents with Mental Illness Through the Lifespan,' presenting their papers from the 6th International Social work Conference in Dublin.

Enquiries and new members most welcome.

Maïke Kaehler

Maïke.Kaehler@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

Social Workers in Brain Injury Practice Group (SWIBIPG)

Who are we?

The Social Workers in Brain Injury Practice Group (SWIBIPG) is the key practice group for social workers working in hospital, community, government, non-government, academic and private settings in the field of paediatric and adult brain injury in NSW. We meet bi-monthly at rotating venues in Sydney. Meeting minutes and items of interest are distributed to members by the group's convenor through a statewide, national and international e-mail network. A number of interstate and international social workers working in the field of brain injury rehabilitation participate in and contribute to SWIBIPG through this network. Our practice group, together with the Brain Injury Social Work Group in the United Kingdom initiated the International Social Workers in Brain Injury Association (INSWABI).

What is acquired brain injury?

Acquired brain injury (ABI) refers to a group of conditions that arise as the result of injury or illness including stroke, anoxic/hypoxic brain injury, alcohol related brain damage, brain tumours, infections (e.g. meningitis) and traumatic brain injury. Common causes of traumatic brain injury include motor vehicle accidents, assaults, falls, sporting injuries and gunshot wounds. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Health Bulletin No. 55 in 2007 states that around 1 in 45 Australians have an ABI that resulted in some degree of disability and about 20,000 children under 15 yrs have ABI.

Projects and Programmes

Strength 2 Strength is a family Resilience Project funded by the Lifetime Care Support Authority. Dr Grahame Simpson, Research Team Leader, Social Worker-Clinical Specialist, managed the project working with social workers from Brain Injury Rehabilitation Units and Spinal Cord Injury units across NSW. The project has developed a new 5 session (10 hour) group program to address people making meaning of their experience, mobilising resources and a family cohesion program focusing on the development of family resilience following brain injury or spinal cord injury.

A working party has commenced planning for a SWIBIPG Conference to be held on Friday, 29 July 2011. The theme is 'Resilience' with the keynote speaker, Carmel Flaskas (Senior Lecturer UNSW) presenting on the balance between hope and hopelessness. Any

early enquiries about the conference may be sent to martines@chw.edu.au

Martine Simons, Senior Social Worker – Clinical Specialist from the Brain Injury Service at The Children's Hospital at Westmead continued her participation in the Shaken Baby Prevention Project in Western Sydney. SBPP is a primary prevention project for parents and carers about the dangers of shaking a baby. The project team comprises social workers, psychologists and doctors. The SBPP has gained international recognition and many health and child protection agencies throughout the world are using the resources or re-developing them to be culturally appropriate for their setting. Our animated film is now available in multiple languages with voiceover and subtitles. More information about this project can be obtained from www.chw.edu.au/parents/kidshealth/crying_baby/

Conference
A number of SWIBIPG members attended the 6th International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health in Dublin. Daniella Pfeiffer, Senior Social Worker at Westmead Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit presented on behalf of the project team: (Grahame Simpson, Kate Jones, Candice Unger, Helen Oosthuizen, Jackie Francis and Denise Young). The paper, Building resilience among family members: providing support to people with spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury: introducing a new programme, received an award for Outstanding Service/Project Award (Social Work Professionals).

Key Practice Issues

SWIBIPG members discussed and worked on many clinical practice issues throughout the year. Two key issues included: social workers in brain injury units working with the legal profession and working with the Motor Accident Authority CTP Scheme, and the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme considering the common issues across adult and paediatric units in NSW

Publications 2010

Social Work in Brain Injury Practice Group, Letter to the Editor, SWIFT, Winter 2010.

Simpson, Grahame & Simons, Martine, 'Promoting positive sexual development among children and adolescents after acquired brain injury', Social Care and Neurodisability, Vol. 1 Issue 1, May 2010 pp 19-30

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SWIBIPG Meetings Presentations

Anne-Marie Sarandrea, Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Leader, The Neuro-behavioural rehabilitation service: a joint venture between the Royal Rehabilitation Centre Sydney and the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust in the United Kingdom.

Robyn Lamb, Head Allied Health, Child Protection Unit, The Children's Hospital at Westmead: Keep Them Safe – a shared response to child wellbeing. The new child protection legislation and discussion about CP issues and BI social work

Allison Rowlands, Community Services Hunter/Central Coast, Action Research Project: Training Needs in Brain Injury for Child Protection Workers

Heather Evans, Development Manager on Supported Housing Options for people with ABI.

Lyly Chenh, Senior Social Worker at Liverpool Brain Injury Unit Presentation on 'Cross Cultural Skills'

INSWABI News

Many SWIBI members have membership with the INSWABI network which is an international collaboration to advance the social work contribution to the field of acquired brain injury for the benefit of people with ABI, their families, significant others and broader support networks. More information about this network can be found on www.biswg.co.uk/html/inswabi.html

If you would like to be on our mailing list or would like further information on our projects or activities please contact me: Martine Simons, Convenor, Social Workers in Brain Injury Practice Group, Senior Social Worker – Clinical Specialist.

Martine Simons

martines@chw.edu.au

Social Workers in Disabilities Practice Group (SWID)

Social Workers in Disabilities (SWID) was established almost 30 years ago and is an affiliation of Social Workers working in the field of disability services, both in government and non-government organisations.

Recent attendees have included social workers from Ageing, Disability and Homecare (ADHC), Learning Links, Northcott Disability Services, The Spastic Centre, Koorana Child & Family Centre and Allawah Children's Hospital.

The SWID forum meets quarterly to network, information share, discuss recent issues, hear from guest speakers and to further professional development. It provides an invaluable opportunity to impart expertise and update members on new services and programmes.

Recent presenters have included Priscilla McCorrison, who spoke of her experience in establishing a private practice and Robyn Dagwell, Social Worker from The Spastic Centre who talked about working with siblings and organising sibling groups.

Next year Dr Jan Breckenridge, Senior Lecturer and Coordinator of the Bachelor of Social Work Program at the University of New South Wales will be discussing her latest research evaluation on the effectiveness of family support models in keeping together families who have a child with a disability.

SWID also holds a biennial two-day conference featuring a range of presentations on important current issues and research initiatives in the field of disabilities. The theme for the last conference was Groupwork Theory and Practice and included topics such as functions of groupwork, barriers to groupwork, mutual aid groupwork, using laughter in groups, sibling groups, grief management and facilitating difficult groups.

The quarterly forums are held at Parramatta, and we encourage those who cannot attend the meetings to read the forum minutes (sent via an email mailing list) in order to benefit from the range of information and topics shared. There is also a SWID HS NET database group site where members are encouraged to share relevant documents and publications, and to partake in conversation forums (www.hsnet.nsw.gov.au).

New members are very welcome. For those who may be interested in attending future meetings, please email or call: Amanda Horton-Hallett (Chair) 4720 4420 amanda.hallett@northcott.com.au
Bev White (Treasurer) 9910 9178
Bev.White@dadhc.nsw.gov.au
Bev White

Social Workers in HIV/AIDS Practice Group (SWAIDS)

SWAIDS continues to meet every second month at Centacare's 'Tree of Hope', corner of Devonshire and Riley Streets, Surry Hills. The meetings are held at 10.00 a.m. every year on the first Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Historically, social workers have played a significant role in HIV/AIDS care and support in Australia. In the early days the medical profession was grappling with an unknown virus and there were limited treatment options for the sick and dying. The social work role became integral as many clients experienced grief and loss, and stigma and discrimination issues because of society's ignorance and fear around HIV infection. Social work practice in HIV care has now evolved from the early days of a palliative care approach to acute care and now to a chronic care management model.

Social work with people with HIV/AIDS continues to be mostly with those who are marginalised, experiencing poor health, on a Disability Support Pension and socially isolated. Social workers provide services such as psychosocial assessments, case management, counselling, advocacy, emotional and practical support, and referral to other services and health professionals.

SWAIDS meetings have an educational component as part of the regular meeting format. A speaker is invited each meeting to share their particular area of work and interest e.g. legal issues, women and HIV, and multicultural issues.

SWAIDS recently made a grant available to John Coady, a long-time social worker at Waratah Clinic at St George Hospital, to attend the International Social Work conference in Dublin to present a paper on his work with Camp Goodtime.

Over the years there has been a core group of social workers that have remained committed to SWAIDS but in recent times the numbers have dwindled. The executive members conducted a survey to ascertain the reasons for this. Some of the key findings were: 74% said they had attended 0 – 3 meetings in the previous twelve months, 16% said they had attended 4 – 6 meetings, 95% of respondents said that information sharing was the main reason they attended as well as for professional connection and network-

ing. 79% claimed time restraints due to work responsibilities made it difficult to attend and 49% said that a clash with other work commitments was the reason for non attendance. Changes were made as a result of this survey and meetings were shortened from three hours to two hours.

The Romy Waterlow Trust has for many years been a financial support to social workers working in the HIV/AIDS area. Romy Waterlow was a social worker working in HIV at Royal North Shore Hospital in the 1980s. When she died she left money in a trust to fund training for social workers in the HIV/AIDS area. SWAIDS was extremely saddened to hear in November 2009 that Romy's husband Nick Waterlow and daughter Chloe were killed. Nick had come to an earlier meeting in 2009 and talked about the legacy that his wife had wanted to leave. The trust committee decided not to make monies available this year.

Leo Barreto
John William Jones
Laura Sawtell

OPEN LETTER

Dear Vittorio,

Thank you for your presentation regarding the pathways project at last Thursday's NSW AGM. However, I must express some disappointment at the paucity of substance and cogent argument.

I have gone back to the National Bulletin (Winter, 2010) and to the documents relating to the national AGM and would like to ask questions and make the following points:

1. The claim of 'comprehensive consultation process'. Was your presentation part of that process? If so, I think you would agree it was received with at best scepticism and at worst rejection. Is it the Board's intention simply to establish focus groups, as mentioned by you? If so, how will they be selected? What stakeholders, other than professional social workers, would be considered? What voice may the organisations representing welfare workers/employers/training and educational bodies have in this process? To what extent would their voices hold weight compared with the voices of AASW grassroots members?

2. Expanding the potential AASW membership. I believe this will not happen. The experience of the formation of the Australian Social Welfare Union back in the 1970s bears this out. AASW actually lost members and the union never prospered. A similar attempt to establish in the 1990s broad-ranging competencies to accommodate both welfare personnel and professional social workers also failed. It is also interesting to note (AASW National President's Report) that the deficit from the 2009 combined national conference has not been reduced by either the welfare or educational organisations that were part of that conference. The conference partners (AIWCW and AASWE) regarded themselves as 'third partners' and that AASW as the largest of the three should take the greatest burden. Does not this suggest that the organisation representing welfare workers is small and weak and that it would gain benefit from membership of AASW rather than the contrary as asserted in the pathways proposal? Without going into detail of the history of these events, If AASW wants to expand membership, it needs to improve the confidence of professional social workers who are AASW's backbone, rather than

diminish it. This would be consistent with the activities and objectives as enunciated in the Directors' Report to the recent national AGM.

3. Building a segmented membership. I see no evidence that this would be 'responsive to the needs of members, employers and education providers'. In any event I would have thought responsiveness to the needs of clients would have been social workers' first priority, in which case AASW should be in the forefront of supporting quality education in the knowledge skills and values of professional social work rather than settling for the lowest common denominator.

4. Voting rights. If I understand this correctly, all members including associates have voting rights but associates would not be eligible to be elected to the Board. What would happen if members voted to change the constitution to expand membership of the Board to welfare personnel other than professional social workers? This proposal seems naive in the extreme.

5. New blood and inclusiveness. Although I understand the sentiment here, I see no evidence to support this claim, rather the contrary as in 2 above.

6. The point is made that 'despite our best endeavours' many workers in the human services do not provide quality or ethical services to our clientele. I very much doubt whether expansion of our membership will necessarily ensure this or give AASW 'a stronger voice'. As a former chair of the NSW branch ethics committee I am aware how difficult it was to sanction professional social workers who were not AASW members. In my experience as an expert witness for NSW Healthcare Complaints Commission and for some cases which went to court, these bodies (and registration) are far more effective than voluntary professional organisations in sanctioning poor practice of both professional social workers and those unqualified but claiming social work expertise.

7. Member feedback. While the Board unanimously supported in principle the pathways project in November 2009, there has been little evidence that any effort has been made to 'develop materials' or engage in consultation in the intervening 12 months (NB p.17). This is disappointing. It was argued by

you on Thursday evening that the Board had delegated responsibility from the membership by virtue of being elected. But we now have a new Board (which as yet has not been announced in hard copy to the membership) and from my recollection of the recent election (with a couple of exceptions) there was no electoral manifesto from the candidates as to whether they would endorse the pathways proposals or otherwise. Indeed, the winter edition of the National Bulletin (p.8) assured us that there would be a special edition of the National Bulletin prior to the election. This did not eventuate. To direct members to the website on such an important issue is inadequate, as is the case with the Healy and Lonne report (NB p.17). Surely members are entitled to hard copy on the basis of such fundamental change to AASW and, with respect, something more specific than your contribution to the winter edition of the National Bulletin. We are entitled to a full and detailed exposition of argument for and against this proposal. AASW is the members' organisation, not merely the Board's. It may be that members' feedback, if properly solicited, will be such that pursuing the proposal further would be a waste of resources which could be used for more pressing needs.

8. Finally, there are two things which puzzle me. Having re-read the reports to the national AGM, there is no mention in the Directors' Report alluding to the pathways proposal. Indeed, the pathways project is contraindicated with respect to (A) Objectives and Activities, In contrast in the President's Report (item 5) pathways is mentioned, stating that the Board 'will commission work ...' without any clear direction about how this will be accomplished, what outcome is envisaged and how this is consistent with the objectives and activities of the Board. This is beyond my comprehension.

I am grateful for this opportunity to give feedback on the pathways proposal, albeit that the specifics are ill-defined and the outcomes based on untested assumptions and without regard to organisational history. It is my intention to circulate this letter to Board members and other interested parties.

Yours sincerely,
Elspeth Browne

FROM THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Another end-of-year summary: can't believe they roll around so quickly!

2010 was a very successful year for professional education at the branch. All of our workshops went ahead; most of them were fully subscribed, some even with waiting lists. As usual, there was a mixture of the tried and tested as well as new events. On the whole, feedback ranged from positive to very positive.

One of the highlights of the year was the Ethics in Aged Care one-day seminar which incorporated a different format to the usual professional education workshops. Held in a hospital setting with a number of distinguished speakers, the seminar attracted over seventy participants and a great deal of enthusiasm. This was the culmination of a huge amount of organisation and input from Leith Cooper and Catherine Quinn, both members of our Professional Education Committee and the Aged Care Practice Group.

We are delighted to be able to follow

up this event in 2011 with a workshop pertinent to the growing field of aged care presented by Dr Graham Simpson and Marianne Bush (see calendar below). It is also exciting to be able to offer two other new workshops in the coming year: Greg Millan, a men's health consultant with a social work background who recently published men's health & well-being: an a-z guide, will present Effective Ways of Engaging Men. Moira Maguire will focus on another very important and often overlooked area in Working with Children of Parents with Mental Illness.

Then there are the professional development courses that have become regular favourites: Greg Sorrell's Cognitive Therapy (CT) early in the year and Sarah Maguire's Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) towards the end of year.

There are other workshops in the pipeline with dates to be finalised. Three of these workshops were hugely

successful with waiting lists in 2010: Working with Women Affected by Domestic Violence, Working with Women with Dissociative Identity Disorder, and the ever-popular Assessment on the Run.

Negotiations are under way to run the four-day Supervision of Staff for Social Workers course in the South West region in the coming year, hence fulfilling a much repeated plea of taking professional development to regional NSW. Because of this, the Professional Education Committee won't be offering a supervision course in the metropolitan area in 2011.

Another workshop in the pipeline will focus on early intervention with young people with a mental illness. There will be more details about all these in coming editions of SWIFT. Our aim is to alert people early about our workshops to assist them in their professional development planning for the coming year.

2011 CALENDAR DETAILS

Cognitive Therapy

Presenter: Greg Sorrell

Date: Thursday, 3 and Friday, 4 March 2011.

Understanding the Brain in Social Work Practice: Links between Neuroanatomy, Cognition and Capacity

Presenters: Dr. Graham Simpson and Marianne Bush

Date: Friday, 8 April 2011.

Effective Ways of Engaging Men

Presenter: Greg Millan

Date: Friday, 20 May 2011.

Working with Children of Parents with a Mental Illness

Presenter: Moira Maguire

Date: Friday, 12 August 2011.

Dialectical Behaviour Therapy

Presenter: Sarah Maguire

Date: Thursday, 23 and Friday, 24 September 2011.

Others in the Pipeline

Working with Women Affected by Domestic Violence

Assessment on the Run

Working with Women with Dissociative Identity Disorder

Early Intervention with Young People with Mental Illness

Supervision of Staff for Social Workers in South West regional NSW

Hope you think, as we do, that this all looks pretty impressive! Finally, we have decided to introduce an early bird fee structure because it can get very problematic for our staff to manage bookings and waiting lists. Fees for 2011 – 2012 are as follows:
Early bird: member \$110.00; non-member \$149.00 (per day)
Ordinary: member \$149.00; non-member \$190.00 (per day)
These fees are still very competitive in comparison with other organisations' charges.

And finally, thanks again to our wonderful office staff, Tereza, Nives and Suraya without whom none of this would be possible.

All the best for the holiday season.

Sue Brown and the Professional Education Committee

Continued page 8

COGNITIVE THERAPY: FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND CLINICAL SKILLS

TWO-DAY COURSE Presented by Greg Sorrell

DATE:	THURSDAY, 3 MARCH & FRIDAY, 4 MARCH 2011.
TIME:	9.30 A.M. TO 4.30 P.M.
VENUE:	TBA
COST:	EARLY BIRDS - AASW MEMBERS: \$220.00 (INCL. GST); NON-MEMBERS: \$298.00 (INCL. GST) ORDINARY RATES - MEMBERS: \$298.00; NON-MEMBERS: \$ 380.00
CPE POINTS:	THIS COURSE ATTRACTS 24 AASW CPE ACCREDITATION POINTS

The Cognitive Therapy (CT) model developed by Aaron T. Beck and supplemented by the work of Albert Ellis (REBT), Donald Meichenbaum, Christine Padesky, Art Freeman, Martin Seligman and others provides a clear, systematic and well-tested basis for working with clients who experience one or more of a wide range of clinical disorders. CT is a versatile skill-building model with a solid reputation for relapse prevention and client empowerment. This workshop will provide comprehensive coverage of the Cognitive Therapy model, its principles and clinical relevance. Further, it will also offer participants the opportunity to explore:

- Tasks in the practice of CT
- The main theoretical constructs
- A significant number of key techniques commonly used in CT.

This workshop will include a review of training DVDs and audios, practice skills, clinical applications and case studies, substantial notes and references.

GREG SORRELL B.A., M.A., M.Psych is a clinical psychologist with over thirty years' experience. Initially, Greg worked with the Department of Youth and Community Services, followed by fourteen years with the Cumberland Hospital drug and alcohol unit. While working in that unit, he developed a cognitive restructuring course (the precursor of his Cognitive Therapy training) for patients and for staff training. During the last ten years, Greg has been conducting Cognitive Therapy training for individual mental health workers on behalf of government and private organisations. His main professional interest is the application of Cognitive Therapy principles to a range of clinical areas, and keeping up to date with the latest developments in Cognitive Therapy.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday, 18 February 2011.
Early birds: Friday 4 February, 2011

Enquiries: AASW NSW Branch, tel. 02 9518 4944, fax. 02 9552 3005, email info@aswsw.com.au

- PLEASE NOTE: 1. Full Payment by closing date is required to secure a place.**
2. Cancellations after the closing date and non-attendance are not eligible for refund.

Registration Form and Tax Invoice

Cognitive Therapy — Fundamental Principles and Clinical Skills

AASW ABN 93 008 576 010 • Thursday, 3 March & Friday, 4 March 2011

Cost for cheque/money order/direct deposits: **Early bird members: \$220.00** (incl. GST); **Non-members: \$298.00** (incl. GST).

Cost for ordinary registration/credit card payments: **Members: \$298.00** (incl. GST), **Non-members: \$380.00** (incl. GST).

For credit card and EFT payments please call the AASW NSW Branch Office.

*There is an additional charge for credit card payments – please call the branch for more information.

NAME _____ MEMBER NO. _____

WORKPLACE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send registration form and cheque payable to AASW NSW Branch, PO Box 838, Glebe NSW 2037.

UNDERSTANDING THE BRAIN IN SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

LINKS BETWEEN NEURO-ANATOMY, COGNITION AND CAPACITY Presented by Dr Grahame Simpson and Marianne Bush

DATE:	FRIDAY, 8 APRIL, 2011
TIME:	9.30AM TO 4.30PM
VENUE:	TBA
COST:	EARLY BIRDS – AASW MEMBERS: \$110.00 (INCL. GST) / NON MEMBERS \$149.00 (INCL. GST) ORDINARY RATE – MEMBERS: \$149.00 / NON-MEMBERS \$190.00
CPE POINTS:	THIS COURSE ATTRACTS 12 AASW CPE ACCREDITATION POINTS

Social workers encounter people with Acquired Brain Injury (e.g., traumatic brain injury, stroke, dementia, MS and so on) in a broad range of practice settings including acute medical, rehabilitation, disability and aged care services. Within these contexts, it is important that social workers understand the causes of ABI and the nature of the cognitive challenges such persons face. This knowledge can be applied to better understand issues relating to client capacity and ethical decision-making in daily social work practice. Specifically, workshop participants will:

- Learn basic facts about the structure and function of the brain
- Understand the changes to the brain associated with ABI
- Recognise different types of cognitive challenges resulting from ABI
- Learn strategies to manage cognitive challenges in practice interactions and maximise client participation
- Learn principles for understanding the interplay between capacity and cognition in ethical decision-making with clients in the practice setting

DR GRAHAME SIMPSON is a social worker and registered psychologist who has worked at the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit at Liverpool Hospital for the past 25 years as a social work practitioner, team leader and researcher. He is also a NHMRC Health Professional Research Fellow at the Rehabilitation Studies Unit, University of Sydney. He has previously provided training in neuroliteracy for social workers who practice in acute medical, rehabilitation, and aged care settings.

MARIANNE BUSH is a social worker with 30 years experience in the disability sector who currently works in the Community Outreach Team Brain Injury Rehabilitation at Liverpool Hospital. She is a past convenor of AASW National Ethics Committee and holds a Masters in Ethics and Legal Studies.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday, 25 March 2011.
Early birds: Friday 11 March, 2011

Enquiries: AASW NSW Branch, tel. 02 9518 4944, fax. 02 9552 3005, email info@aswsw.com.au

- PLEASE NOTE: 1. Full payment by closing date is required to secure a place.
2. Cancellations after the closing date and non-attendance are not eligible for refund.**

Registration Form and Tax Invoice

Understanding the Brain in Social Work Practice

AASW ABN 93 008 576 010 • Friday, 8 April 2011

Cost for cheque/money order/direct deposits: **Early bird members: \$110.00** (incl. GST); **Non-members: \$149.00** (incl. GST).

Cost for ordinary registration/credit card payments: **Members: \$149.00** (incl. GST), **Non-members: \$190.00** (incl. GST).

For credit card payments or EFT payments call the AASW NSW Branch Office.

*There is an additional charge for credit card payments – please call the branch for more information.

NAME _____ MEMBER NO. _____

WORKPLACE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send registration form and cheque payable to AASW NSW Branch, PO Box 838, Glebe NSW 2037.

EFFECTIVE WAYS OF ENGAGING MEN

HEALTH PROMOTION TRAINING PROGRAM

Presented by Greg Millan, Men's Health Consultant

DATE:	FRIDAY, 20 MAY, 2011.
TIME:	9.30 A.M. TO 4.30 P.M.
VENUE:	TBA
COST:	EARLY BIRDS - AASW MEMBERS: \$110.00 (INCL. GST) / NON-MEMBERS: \$149.00 (INCL. GST) ORDINARY RATES - MEMBERS: \$149.00; NON-MEMBERS: \$190.00
CPE POINTS:	THIS COURSE ATTRACTS 12 AASW CPE ACCREDITATION POINTS

This training program focuses on how we can more effectively communicate health and wellbeing messages to men and what organisations need to know to make their services, programs and resources more men friendly to achieve the best possible outcomes for men and boys. This workshop program is for men and women who provide health, welfare, wellbeing or community services for men and boys. You will learn through input and interactive groupwork:

- What the current national issues are for males and principles of best practice in men's health work.
- What you need to know about the new National Male Health Policy.
- Introduction to the H.E.A.L.T.H. Model for engaging men and how to use this to increase your skills in men's health work.

- About current successful men's health promotion strategies and resources.
- How to develop your own effective men-friendly programs and resources for your organisation or service.

GREG MILLAN is a social work trained health educator and trainer with over 18 years experience in the men's health promotion area developing and implementing many workshop programs, community events and resources covering a wide range of male health and wellbeing issues. He has worked for government, non-government organisations and the private sector. He produces emale Australia's largest circulation free national monthly men's health and wellbeing ebulletin and is the author of Men's health & wellbeing: an a-z guide.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: Friday, 6 May 2011.

Early birds: Friday 22 April, 2011

Enquiries: AASW NSW Branch, tel. 02 9518 4944, fax. 02 9552 3005, email info@aswsw.com.au

- PLEASE NOTE: 1. Full Payment by closing date is required to secure a place.
2. Cancellations after the closing date and non-attendance are not eligible for refund.**

Registration Form and Tax Invoice

Effective Ways of Engaging Men

AASW ABN 93 008 576 010 • Friday, 20 May 2011.

Cost for cheque/money order/direct deposits: **Early bird members: \$110.00** (incl. GST); **Non-members: \$149.00** (incl. GST).

Cost for ordinary registration/credit card payments: **Members: \$149.00** (incl. GST), **Non-members: \$190.00** (incl. GST).

For credit card payments or direct deposit please call the AASW NSW Branch Office.

*There is an additional charge for credit card payments – please call the branch for more information.

NAME _____ MEMBER NO. _____

WORKPLACE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ MOBILE _____ EMAIL _____

Please send registration form and cheque payable to AASW NSW Branch, PO Box 838, Glebe NSW 2037.

Leah is a Sydney based doctoral-level clinical psychologist with 17 years of clinical and teaching expertise in CBT and traumatology

Treating PTSD

2011 trauma education

presented by
Dr Leah Giarratano



28 AASW CPE points approved.
Sydney CBD, 12-13 May

Limited positions.
Melbourne CBD, 26-27 May

Register early or reserve your place today.
Brisbane CBD, 2-3 June

Perth CBD, 9-10 June

Adelaide CBD, 16-17 June

For more details about this workshop and books by Leah Giarratano refer to www.talominbooks.com

Clinical skills for treating posttraumatic stress disorder

This two-day (9am-5.00pm) program presents a highly practical and interactive workshop (case-based) for treating traumatised clients; the content is applicable to both adult and adolescent populations. Techniques are cognitive behavioural, evidence-based, and will be immediately useful and effective for your clinical practice. The program includes handouts and numerous case examples. The emphasis is upon imparting practical skills and up-to-date research in this area. This program is suitable for all mental health professionals.

Day one topics include:

- Treatment maps and planning strategies
- Psychoeducation and motivation tips
- Analysing and targeting dysfunctional behaviours (e.g., substance abuse, self-harm)
- Arousal reduction strategies (including breathing retraining, grounding and distraction tasks)
- An introduction to anger management

Day Two topics include:

- In vivo exposure therapy (reducing avoidance behaviours)
- The fundamentals of exposure therapy for traumatic memories (prolonged imaginal exposure)
- Cognitive challenging of negative self-statements related to the traumatic event
- Contraindications and complex case issues

What past participants have said about this program

"Fantastic workshop. The program was well structured. Leah provided a thorough understanding of the material and this was supported by research and case studies"

"Leah- without a doubt this has been one of the most relevant and useful PD activities I have done. Thank you for sharing your expertise, knowledge base and practise material. I will be recommending this course and resources to my colleagues"

"This was an outstanding workshop! The blend of clinical experience, with research knowledge was fantastic. Very practical – will draw on these concepts/tools often and highly recommend this workshop to others"

Program Fee

- + Single: **\$660 Early Bird** (when you pay up to 3 months prior to the workshop date) or **\$720 Normal Fee**
- + Pairs: **\$1200 Early Bird** or **\$1320 Normal Fee** when two people register and pay together by fax or mail

Program Fee includes GST, program materials, lunches, morning and afternoon teas on both workshop days

Please direct your enquiries to Joshua George on (02) 9823 3374. Email: mail@talominbooks.com

Treating PTSD Registration Form	
Sydney 12-13 May; Melbourne 26-27 May; Brisbane 2-3 June; Perth 9-10 June; Adelaide 16-17 June Please circle the workshop you wish to attend above and return this page with your payment	
Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email (*essential*):
Special dietary requirements:	
Method of payment (circle one) Visa MasterCard Cheque Please reserve my place & I'll pay during Early Bird period	
Name of cardholder: (if using a credit card)	
Card Number:	Expiry Date:
Signature of card holder: (if using a credit card)	Debit amount: \$
<p><u>Cheques are to be made payable to Talomin Books Pty Ltd and mailed to PO Box 877, Mascot NSW 1460</u> If payment is made with a credit card (or if you are reserving a place), simply complete the information above and fax this page to (02) 8786 1361. A receipt will be emailed to you upon processing. Note: Attendee withdrawals more than one month in advance attract a processing fee of \$44. No withdrawals are permitted in the month prior to the workshop; however positions are transferable to anyone you nominate.</p>	

News from the Universities

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

FROM THE SOCIAL WORK AND POLICY STUDIES PROGRAM

Congratulations to Our New Graduates

We would like to congratulate our fourth year students who successfully completed their Social Work Degree, and are now enthusiastically embarking on an exciting career in social work practice. We wish them a successful and rewarding future.

Staff Promotions and News

Congratulations to Denise Lynch who has been promoted to Senior Lecturer.

Recent Publications

The Good Mother

Edited by Susan Goodwin and Kate Huppatz

Book Launch

In the Field: From Learning to Practice

By Roslyn Giles, Jude Irwin, Denise Lynch and Fran Waugh

In association with Pauline Armour, Margot Beach, Kas Mattes, Karen Menzies, Andrea Small and Sylvia Winton

In the Field explores both the theories and 'how to' of practice learning so that students get the most out of the field placement experience. It provides all the relevant information combined with practical activities and examples to allow them to apply their knowledge in a real life setting. The text also tackles the different challenges that are encountered in field placements helping students to gain skills that can be used throughout their careers in the human services.

DATE: Tuesday, 14 December 2010.

TIME: 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. (Field Education Seminar)

5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. (Book Launch)

VENUE: Room 401, 4th Floor Education Building, A35, Camperdown Campus, University of Sydney

RSVP: by 3 December 2010 to maria.bruzzese@sydney.edu.au

FIELD EDUCATION NEWS

This year's field education program has been a great success. We were able to place 165 students in 2010. Thanks to all the many field educators who have committed their time and energy to the professional development of our future social workers. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support of our field education program. Social Work student field education placements at The University of Sydney will occur at the following times in 2011:

- Fourth Year Placement (final placement): 80 days full-time, beginning Monday, 4 April 2011. Earliest completion date: Friday, 5 August 2011.

- Third Year Placement (first placement): 60 days, four days a week (Tuesday – Friday), beginning Tuesday, 9 August 2011. Earliest completion date: Friday, 18 November 2011.

- Master of Social Work (Qualifying) Practice Learning 1: 60 days, four days a week (Tuesday – Friday), beginning Tuesday, 9 August 2011. Earliest completion date: Friday, 18 November 2011.

We are currently seeking placement opportunities for our fourth year students. If you would like to offer a placement or for more information about our field education program, please contact Andrea Small 02 9351 6897 or andrea.small@sydney.edu.au

If you would like to receive information about our field education program as well as the many professional development opportunities at The University of Sydney, please complete the information form which can be accessed via the following link. This form is also available on our website under Social Work Field Education,

http://www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/social_work/field_ed/fielded_contacts_form.php

FREE FIELD EDUCATION SEMINARS IN 2011

Pre-placement and Mid-placement Seminars

Half-day seminars are held twice a year for field educators providing third and fourth year placements. These seminars provide field educators with the opportunity to have face-to-face discussions with their peers and to step beyond their practice roles and explore their identity as field educators.

New Field Educator Workshop – 15 March 2011

'Preparing to be a Field Educator' is a workshop presented for social work practitioners with an interest in social work student learning and field education. This workshop will build on your experiences as a learner and a practitioner and prepares you for the important task of becoming a field educator.

Field Education Conference

Each year the School of Social Work and Policy Studies at The University of Sydney holds a field education mini-conference. This is a time for field educators to meet together and discuss issues of particular interest. This is an all-day event, with a focus on learning in field education. We usually have a great line-up of presenters and cover stimulating topics in the discussion forum at end of the day.

For more information about any of the above seminars, please contact Andrea Small on 02 9351 6897 or email andrea.small@sydney.edu.au

Andrea Small

Field Education Professional Officer
Social Work and Policy Studies
Faculty of Education and Social Work

UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (UNSW)

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Social Work Services in Australian Schools

This study is to investigate the current state and possibilities of social work services in Australian schools. The results from this study will provide information that may be useful in designing future practices and policies relevant to social work services in schools. If you participate in this study you will be asked to complete a questionnaire and some of you may be contacted for further interviews and focus groups. If you are a social worker who is working in schools, you may be eligible for this study.

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Dr Lee at (02) 9385 2329 or js.lee@unsw.edu.au

ARC Linkage Grant 2010 – 2013 Indigenous Australians with Mental Health Disorders and Cognitive Disability in the Criminal Justice System

Chief Investigators: Eileen Baldry, Leanne Dowse, Julian Trollor, Patrick Dodson (UNSW)

This project addresses the high over-representation of Indigenous persons with mental health and cognitive disabilities in Australian criminal justice systems. It will develop new understanding of the interactions between criminal justice, social, health, disability and other human services. Applying an indigenous methodology to the study of this group will result in new information and understanding of Indigenous persons' experiences and perspectives. This will allow, for the first time, a critical analysis of system interactions and responses to complex needs for these people. Outcomes will inform indigenous theory and will be vital for developing new policy and practice to assist in protecting and promoting indigenous wellbeing.

Field Education at UNSW

UNSW social work field education has successfully applied for UNSW research funding to investigate the transition that students experience when moving from classroom learning to learning in the field environment. Dr Wendy Foote leads this investigation. Thanks to field educators who have contributed to the research by participating in focus groups. It is hoped that the research will result in a more targeted support for students and field.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Associate Professors Sue Green and Eileen Baldry presented Decolonising Australian Social Work Education at Bridging the Gap Indigenous symposium, University of Sydney, 27 August 2010.

Abstract: Australian social work education has recognised the importance of developing social workers skilled in working in partnership with Indigenous Australians and communities. This means ensuring that Indigenous ways of working and being are embedded in the social work curriculum; recruiting, retaining and graduating Indigenous students and educating non-Indigenous students to work alongside Indigenous people in a culturally safe and anti-oppressive manner. Social Work program staff members play a large role in ensuring the program supports these aims. We reflect on our experience over the past eight years in working towards these goals, and on the development we see in ourselves and in our students. We discuss contemporary Indigenous and non-Indigenous colleagues working in partnership and our rethinking of contemporary social work values and practices in the light of contemporary Indigenous emancipatory theory. In particular, we also explore what we have come to see as the centrality and importance of decolonisation both for us and our Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and tease out what decolonisation means in a social work education context.

BOOKS

Studying for Social Work by Eileen Baldry, Mark Hughes, Linda Burnett and Ian Collinson. The publisher is SAGE – to be published January 2011.

<http://www.uk.sagepub.com/books/Book233238#tabview=title>

This essential guide to studying skills takes social work students through every step of their degree journey, providing them with the academic tools they will need to thrive along the way. Inventively informed by the insights and reflections of qualifying students, the book offers effective guidance that is grounded in real experience of the social work degree. It is particularly suited to those in their early years of study and supports students as 'social workers in the making.' The book covers a comprehensive range of the core study skills, including: time management; literature searches; engaging with research; responding to new styles of social work learning and teaching; critical thinking; academic writing; and presentations. With reflective questions, handy practical tips and links to helpful websites, this accessible handbook is the perfect study companion for every student on the path to professional qualification.

Older People, Ageing and Social Work-Knowledge for Practice by Hughes, M. and Heycox, K. (2010), Allen and Unwin, Crows Nest.

Associate Professor Mark Lymbery, University of Nottingham U.K. writes in the foreword that this book is 'essential reading for practitioners, educators and researchers within the general field of social work with older people.' Much has been written in Australia on social policy and older people, and some social work practice perspectives are also given through journal articles and book chapters within practice texts. However, this appears to be the first time a whole book has been dedicated to social work in this increasingly significant area of local practice. Apart from taking a reflective approach to social work with older people and its relevance in this complex and interesting area of social work practice, the book also highlights the diversity and strengths of the older population.

...continued next page

Master of Social Work in Counselling

- Only specialist MSW in Counselling in Australia
- Designed for practicing social workers
- Part-time over two years
- Commonwealth supported program



School of Social Sciences and International Studies

UNSW offers a unique program for social workers to consolidate and extend counselling knowledge and skills. The focus is on family-sensitive practice and counselling methods that are orientated to clients' strengths and that promote resilience.

- Intake every two years
- Applications for 2011 close 30 Nov 2010
- Program details available at <http://ssis.arts.unsw.edu.au>
- Master of Couple and Family Therapy also available (next intake 2012)

Contact:
 Kerrie James, Program Coordinator
 Tel: (02) 9385 1962
 Email: kerrie.james@unsw.edu.au
 Web: <http://ssis.arts.unsw.edu.au>



News from the Universities

COURSES

New Course Offered at UNSW – Professional Practice Supervision (PPS)

A PPS course which constitutes 6 Units of Credit, is being developed for fieldwork educators and clinical educators who supervise and educate UNSW students in the Programs of Medicine, Exercise Physiology, Social work and Optometry. The 2 modules (Learning & Teaching; Assessment & Feedback) consist of a blend of online and face-to-face activities designed to explore participants' experience and issues of interest, combined with an analysis of theories and approaches to professional placement education. The aim is to assist educators to understand and manage the complexity of issues involved in supervision in the professional setting. The second round of piloting the course took place in July 2010 with Exercise Physiology & Social Work educators and Medicine & Optometry educators meeting on campus for the workshops. More information about when the course will be offered later this year and in 2011 will be issued shortly. For any further information please contact Keri Moore, ext. 56188, keri.moore@unsw.edu.au

2011 COURSE ANNOUNCEMENT Certificate of Supervision in Field Education in Social Work UNSW

The Social Work Program at The University of New South Wales will be offering a course in student supervision in field education leading to the Certificate of Supervision in Field Education in Social Work. This course provides new and experienced instructors with knowledge, skills and the means for increasing self-awareness in teaching/learning situations; highlights typical problem situations encountered in student supervision; addresses performance evaluation; theory and practice integration, and explores ethical and legal issues in field education. It also examines theoretical frames of reference for teaching and learning, including models of supervision, and addresses common needs and anxieties of field teachers and students.

DATE: March – June 2011

DURATION OF COURSE: 3 hours per week for 12 weeks

VENUE: The University of New South Wales

ENQUIRIES: Mary Despinis 02 93851881 or email socialwork@unsw.edu.au

A/Prof Elizabeth Fernandez 02 93851865 or email e.fernandez@unsw.edu.au

Please contact us if you would like to receive more information or a registration brochure.

WOMEN IN WELFARE EDUCATION JOURNAL NUMBER 10

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are seeking articles for the tenth edition of the Women in Welfare Education Journal, due to be published later in 2011. The

editorial committee is especially interested to encourage women practitioners and students, as well as academics, to submit papers for publication. A broad range of articles relevant to women's perspectives on social work and welfare policy, practice and education have been published in previous editions. (You may have a recent conference paper you could rework as a journal article.) This is a peer-reviewed journal which is now published electronically and available free of charge via the WIWE link on the website of the Australian Association for Social Work and Welfare Education (AASWWE) at <http://www.aaswwe.asn.au/> Notes for contributors are included below. Please check that your reference list includes all works cited in your article, and that all required publication information is included. Manuscripts which do not comply will not be forwarded for review.

We would appreciate you circulating this information to other women practitioners, students, academics.

The submission date for the tenth edition is the end of December 2010. For further information please contact:

Karen Heycox Tel. 02 9385 1964
University of New South Wales
email: k.heycox@unsw.edu.au

Lesley Hughes tel. 02 9385 1963
University of New South Wales
email: l.hughes@unsw.edu.au

Natalie Bolzan tel. 02 9772 6531
University of Western Sydney
email: n.bolzan@uws.edu.au

Fran Waughtel. 02 9351 4207
University of Sydney
email: F.Waugh@edfac.usyd.edu.au

Karen Heycox

Senior Lecturer
Chair Field Education
Social Work Program
School of Social Sciences and International
Studies
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
University of New South Wales

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

Evidence-based Practice Implementation Survey

Thank you to all who completed the online survey of social workers' attitudes toward and experiences of evidence-based practice. This survey is part of a national ARC Discovery grant funded project being undertaken by the Research Institute for Social Inclusion and Wellbeing at the University of Newcastle. The research team appreciates the assistance of the AASW National Office in advertising the survey to members. Over 400 social workers from all states and territories responded to the survey. If you missed the survey, but have some thoughts on evidence-based practice in the human services, you still have the opportunity to participate in a

phone interview. Please email Elyssa Joy, Elyssa.Joy@newcastle.edu.au

CRC for Social Inclusion Bid

The University of Newcastle is the leading organisation in a bid to establish a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Social Inclusion. A partnership has been established with a broad range of research and end-user organisations including federal and state government departments and many not-for-profit organisations. The bid has now reached the final assessment stage. There are four research programs envisaged for the proposed centre:

1. Evidence Based Interventions in Families
2. Participations and Inclusive Communities
3. Social Enterprise and Pathways of Learning to Work
4. Closing the Digital Divide

Through these research programs and their implementation the CRC seeks to develop innovative human and community services that will promote participation of individuals and families in Australia's economic, political and civic life.

Health Workforce Australia

The University of Newcastle social work program recently partnered with the University of New England and Hunter New England Health in a successful application for clinical training funding for student growth and expanding clinical training capacity in rural areas. Newcastle also partnered with the Broken Hill Department of Rural Health and Greater Western Area Health Service in another application. Funding will be used to establish and maintain clinical placements in rural locations.

Fourth Year Social Work Conference

The annual fourth year social work conference, 'Australian Social Work: Inspirations, Challenges, and New Directions,' was held on 25 and 26 October at the University of Newcastle. The keynote speaker was the AASW President, Professor Bob Lonnie. The conference program comprised a varied range of topics researched and presented by final year BSW students. Often students had developed an interest in their topic during the degree or on field placement. Audience members consisted of peers, academics, field educators, and workers from local human service agencies. This was the fifth annual student conference and it continues to be a successful way to showcase students' work and to maintain links between the University, social workers and human service agencies. We are grateful to the Hunter Branch of the AASW who supported the conference.

Debbie Plath

Social Work Program Convenor
School of Humanities & Social Sciences
The University of Newcastle

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU)

Final Seminar Days

All Social Work Students attended the first of two final seminar days on 1 November, 2010. The day was taken up with presentations by final year students on their learning whilst in placement this year. Everyone contributed to a communal lunch and a good time was had by all.

We wish to express our thanks to Dr Margaret Spencer who was guest speaker on the day. Margaret spoke of the journey she had undertaken over the course of her working career from her days in Holy Orders to her training and work in nursing and then in social work. Foregrounding the importance of relationship building in working with disadvantaged people, Margaret dispensed with the microphone and went in amongst the students to encourage them to identify and to reflect upon the motivations that brought them into social work. Her enthusiasm and willingness to share her journey was inspirational.

Margaret, who works for the Intellectual Disability Rights Service recently headed up a project which aims to support parents with intellectual disabilities in matters of care and protection. Margaret has a strong track record in enabling Human Services Workers to provide innovative approaches to supporting people with complex care needs and parents with intellectual disabilities and their children. As a Churchill Fellowship Scholar, Margaret carried out research into parenting in the USA, UK and Denmark.

The second of the two final seminar days included an employment panel for the final year students. Both staff and students wish to express their thanks to those representatives of social work agencies who came to talk about job opportunities and trends in social work employment in their respective sectors.

Field Education at ACU

2010 is fast drawing to a close and students are finalising their learning in the field. This year was the first year we had Master of Social Work students out in the field. Many were offered challenging and rewarding direct practice placements and all have demonstrated acute ethical awareness, high order communication skills, creativity and enthusiasm for undertaking research for practice. Our cohort will grow again in 2011 as the MSW enters its second year and we

are calling Social Work practitioners to consider supervising ACU students next year in the second semester.

Many thanks to all the skilled and principled social workers and human services workers who provided placements for students in the third and fourth year of the BSW and the first year of the MSW this year. The range and quality of placements has been outstanding. ACU students took a step up this year in their reflective critical writing, in part due to the provision of criteria for assessing reflective work. They also presented surprising, moving and inspiring cases and reflections on ethical and theoretical matters at their liaison visits. Congratulations to field educators and students for the efforts that stimulated deep learning in the field this year.

ACU is working with colleagues across the university sector to develop a common set of assessment tools for placements in Social Work. We are hopeful of identifying a preferred model in NSW by the end of this year.

Within the school, recent research into social work critical reflection and graduate career paths will hopefully support and develop our field education program in the coming year.

The Karen Agnew Prize for Excellence in Social Work Practice

Congratulations to Rosemary Cook, this year's winner of the Karen Agnew Prize. Rosemary received the award for her outstanding work whilst on placement with Community Services, St George. The prize was presented to Rosemary at the Australian Catholic University's awards evening in the Gleeson Auditorium of the Strathfield campus on 28 July 2010 by Mrs Christine Agnew.

Karen Agnew was a first year student on the social work program in Strathfield, who died following a sudden illness connected to a longstanding health problem whilst on holiday in England in July 2000. The award was established shortly afterwards to honour Karen's memory and the outstanding qualities she had shown in her first fieldwork placement. All first year students enrolled on social work programs at the Strathfield, Canberra or Brisbane campuses of the Australian Catholic University may be nominated by their liaison visitors following the first fieldwork practice period.

Criteria for the award includes the need for

candidates to have shown evidence of being a positive role model to fellow students, colleagues or clients in their fieldwork placement practice, and to have shown evidence of outstanding initiative and creativity in their social work practice with clients. Candidates are also required to have shown an outstanding commitment to the principles of social justice. Anyone wishing to contribute to the prize fund should contact the School of Social Work at the Mount Saint Mary campus in Strathfield.

Over \$500 has been raised for the prize fund this year. As an honoured guest at the final seminar for third and final year Social Work Students on 1 November, 2010, Karen's mother, Mrs Christine Agnew conducted the prize draw. The prize had been donated by the Agnew family and was won by Natalie Wu, a third year BSW student.

Our thanks to all those who have contributed to the prize fund and in particular to the Agnew family whose hard work and support has helped so much in establishing the Karen Agnew Prize for Excellence in Social Work Practice.

Blessed Mary MacKillop

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph have special significance for the Australian Catholic University and a historic connection with our predecessor colleges. A number of events were hosted recently by the University and around our campuses to commemorate Blessed Mary MacKillop's canonisation as Australia's first saint. In October 2010, forty University staff and students travelled to Rome to participate in the ceremonies, and celebrations were held at each of the University's six campuses.

Associate Professor Nerida White gave an address for the opening of a special exhibition in the Vatican Museum, followed by a cultural performance from students and staff representing the University's Centre for Indigenous Education and Research (CIER). The twenty-four member Australian Catholic University performance team presented the life of Mary MacKillop through drama and song on 15 October 2010 in Rome and on 17 October 2010 in St. Peter's Basilica. The University Choir joined the Vatican Choir for the Canonisation Mass.

Maree Delaney

Lecturer, Field Education
School of Social Work
Australian Catholic University

The Chinese delegation



The Parramatta Industry Night, 14 September 2010.

