
Editorial

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This issue of *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work* presents a selection of articles covering issues of interest to our diverse membership. We begin with Robyn Agnew's 'Reflections on the new Scottish Innovative Child Protection System' – a thoughtful and timely piece which provides a useful contrast to the New Zealand model of practice. It offers some different ways of approaching child welfare and shows how government departments can work together to the benefit of the child. I am not sure there is anything more important than this field of practice. Having worked in Scotland many years ago when Children's panels were first introduced, it is interesting to see how practice has evolved.

This is followed by a practical piece, 'Moving Beyond Violence: Exploring new ways to support women and develop networked approaches following intimate partner violence', in which Ruth Panelli, Tina Mongston and Fiona Young with Anna, Elizabeth, Katie, and N.D. according to their abstract outline a group-work initiative developed by Jigsaw Central Lakes as a response to recent calls for networked and full-frame approaches in the field of intimate partner violence (IPV). It identifies both professional literature and policy contexts encouraging networked and collaborative cross-sector actions before outlining the Moving Beyond Violence (MBV) programme run for women in the Queenstown Lakes district. A brief description of networks and content is followed by a discussion of feedback and outcomes, learnings and further directions.

Moving on from social work with children to social work with women, we next present an article on issues of elder abuse – 'Prevalence and associated factors of elder abuse in a community-dwelling population of Aotearoa New Zealand: A cross-sectional study', by Polly Yeung, Lareen Cooper and Michael Dale. This study investigates the prevalence and associated factors of elder abuse in a representative sample of older people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Next, Mike Webster, David McNabb and John Darroch cover a piece, 'Advancing social work professionalism: Standards for management and leadership in Aotearoa New Zealand.' Readers will find this a useful piece of work on leadership and management for social work which will spark future discussions and work in the area.

This is followed by Sue Elliott, writing reflectively on her work with refugees. She presents an auto-ethnography of facilitating consultations in the refugee sector, explaining how she facilitates practice based on a series of annual consultations between UNHCR, NGOs and refugee community representatives over a period of five years. Reflections on facilitation practice within an ethnically diverse situation makes up the bulk of the article, which is written from the perspective of a Pakeha woman who has worked in the refugee sector for nearly 35 years, most recently in community development and capacity building of refugee based organisations.

This article is followed by Jason Rushton discussing volunteer peer supervision in an ever changing social service environment. Given the difficulties that social workers, let alone social work volunteers, encounter when seeking professional supervision, this is a

timely piece. The purpose of this article is to start a discussion around the importance of peer supervision with social service volunteers to provide accountability around professional practice and registration for many social service professions.

Our final piece is by Sarah Taylor, who has reviewed an early intervention mental health service in South Canterbury providing brief intervention to adults with mild to moderate mental illnesses after ten years on.

Since this is most certainly the final editorial we will be writing as editors of the journal, we end with a very brief overview of past issues of *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work Review*, which have included a variety of special issues often produced by guest editors. These special issues cover topical issues of the day and we have found them a particularly rewarding contribution to the Journal. The 20(2), 2008 vintage issue, for example, celebrates the Association's legacy in print, which spans from 1965 to the present day. It is no coincidence that a number of articles chosen for that issue reflect the Association's interest in the professionalisation of social work. The following year Liz Beddoe was guest editor for a double issue on social work and health and well-being. In this issue, Margaret Pack wrote a guest commentary observing that:

In introducing the mental health and well-being articles I have a confession to make: I tend to miss reading the editorial usually as often I am curious about the content of the articles and so I cut to the chase to the main articles. In reflecting on this pattern, this seems like an analogy as to how as social workers we can tend to approach complex issues by plunging into the middle of things, partly due to time constraints. In this process we can risk losing our awareness of the bigger picture (Pack, M., 2010, p. 53).

The editorials are always the most current material published in the Journal, and have attempted to encourage reflection, challenge and debate. Such was our hope in producing the Swedish social justice special double issue 23(1&2), 2011. In the same year the 23(4), 2011 Special issue focused on field education and was edited by Kathryn Hay and Dominic Chilvers. In their editorial they argued that:

Field education is a critical component of social work education that has far reaching effects on students, social workers, clients, agencies and tertiary institutions. Students identify their field education experience as the most significant single element of their studies and these experiences are crucial for their development as beginning practitioners. This issue was an opportunity to highlight some of the current issues and concerns facing this crucial aspect of social work practice by presenting recent research, critical reflections and developing knowledge (Hay, K. and Chilvers, D., 2011, p. 1).

As editors we have enjoyed the freedom to include unusual editorials, such as Mary Ann Baskerville's editorial, in which she shared her speech given when she was presented with her life membership, and ended by saying: 'I challenge you to get involved and continue to believe in our profession as it can and DOES make a difference' (Baskerville, M., 2012).

Social work in the quake zone, 25(2), 2013, was ably edited by Jane Maidment & Raewyn Tudor. This special issue was dedicated to documenting social work responses to the 2010-2011 earthquakes in Canterbury, New Zealand. In this issue, the authors have outlined the effects of the earthquakes, embedding these within the complex social, political, organisation-

al and cultural environment of greater Christchurch and surrounding districts. A multitude of stories and experiences unfold, each suggesting a range of practice, policy and research implications for social work as a discipline.

In the 10th anniversary of the Social Workers Registration Act (2003) we edited a special issue of the *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work Review*, 25(3), 2013, to provide some food for thought about the past decade and the changes that have occurred with social workers' registration.

Our final special issue celebrated, fittingly, the 50th Anniversary of the establishment of the Association. The editorial introduces articles and practice pieces which provide a window into both personal and social reflections on social work across the past 50 years. It also contains a useful record of the variety of titles held by the Journal since it was first published in 1965.

We conclude this editorial observing with Siporin that:

Humour is a creative act that helps transform pain and deviance into constructive growth, for clients as well as for oneself. To laugh is not only to last, but to have fun, to grow, to be free and human, to celebrate one's own life with the fellow members of one's community. (Siporin, 1984:464)

We recommend that our readers keep this in mind and read on with pleasure.

References

- Baskerville, M. (2012). Editorial. *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work Review*, 24(1), 1-2.
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