

A rich collection of research and scholarship for social justice in Aotearoa New Zealand

We are pleased to introduce a rich and varied set of articles that comprise the first issue for 2023. While the topics, challenges, and populations addressed and the methods employed are varied, there are common themes and challenges. All authors provide evidence and argument for improved outcomes for different groups in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Leading off this issue is “Ka mua, ka muri—Walking backwards into the future: Partnering with mainstream child protection mainstream child protection services as a community-based Māta Waka organisation” by authors Lashana Lewis (Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Te Reinga), Shayne Walker (Kai Tahu, Ngāti Kahungunu), Paula Toko King (Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua, Waikato Tainui, Ngāti Maniapoto), Hunia Te Urukaiata Mackay (Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Rangitihi, Rongowhakaata), Natalie Paki Paki (Taranaki), Daniel Anderson (Ngāti Maniapoto, Tainui) and Susan P. Kemp. The authors note that, frequently overlooked in discussions of Crown–Māori partnerships are the community-based Māta Waka (pan-tribal) organisations, which provide a range of services to tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori who are not mana whenua. This highly timely and topical article reports on a Kaupapa Māori study designed to examine the expectations that kaimahi working for a Māta Waka Kaupapa Māori service provider have of other organisations that: partner with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori; and partner with Māta Waka.

In a rich and engaging article, Lewis et al. draw on findings from wānanga with

kaimahi, to illuminate the principles and values that guide their practice, using these as a foundation for exploring the complexities, challenges, and opportunities inherent in building effective partnerships with statutory child protection services on behalf of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori across differences in mandate, power, world views, and guiding frameworks or tikanga Māori. The study findings have implications for current Crown–Māori partnership efforts and, by extension, for the wellbeing of tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau Māori.

In “Āpiti hono, tātai hono. A collaborative bicultural social work research approach” Kora Deverick and Hannah Mooney (Ngāti Raukawa ki te tonga, Te Āti Awa, Ngā Rauru, Te Āti Haunui a Pāpārangi, Pākehā) describe their research design as a bicultural collaboration between a Pākehā researcher (and taura) and a Māori social work research supervisor. The article both describes the methods they used, and presents a reflective account of the process, in an effort to use a “decolonising, Te Tiriti o Waitangi lens”. The authors argue that this reflective process helps acknowledge and take account of the wider social, political and historical contexts. This article will be particularly of use to Pākehā keen to engage in bicultural research processes in studies that engage with Māori participants. It describes wider issues of accountability, relationships and supervision, as well as interpersonal aspects such as interviewing processes. Covering important *nitty gritty* issues such as whakawhanaungatanga, karakia and time as important aspects of interviewing, the article provides a realistic account

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of the tensions inherent in this kind of research and asks how cultural humility can inform the application of these concepts and practices in interview settings.

In “Āpiti hono, tātai hono. Collaborative bicultural social work practice—A selection of findings”, an article that follows the article introduced above, Deverick and Mooney explore the personal bicultural practice journeys of social workers, Erika, Lynley, Alana and Rose. The complexities of colonisation, practice and education are outlined through the presented findings with gentle reminders of the importance of shared understandings, te Ao Māori and differing diverse journeys. A key recommendation presented by Deverick and Mooney, through the voices and experiences of participants, is a need to bridge the gap between policy and practice. This article is of substantial value to training Pākeha social work students as they navigate the responsibilities of bi-cultural practice. It is also useful for social workers in the field who are struggling with bi-cultural roles and responsibilities, providing a rare look at practice focused on giving effect to te Tiriti o Waitangi through collaborative practice. Deverick and Mooney demonstrate research bi-culturalism as Māori and Pākeha researchers while the social workers interviewed from Māori, Pasifika and Pākeha perspectives enable us to see multiple realities. This article has great relevance for all.

Both international and research undertaken in Aotearoa New Zealand indicates that older adults experience inequity of access to inpatient and outpatient palliative care. In “Utilising literature and systems theory to explore the intersections between policy, practice and equity of access to palliative care for older adults in Aotearoa New Zealand”, Dallace Lilley and Kate Reid examine the intersections between policy and palliative care practice, ageism and inequity experienced by older adults, including Māori and LGBTQ+ perspectives, and older adults’ caregivers, family and whānau. This article is a good example of how applying a critical

social work lens to explore the impacts of inequity and ageism within a range of source materials including peer-reviewed academic literature, strategic documents, and legislative frameworks, to discern the knowledge base necessary to advocate for older adults within palliative care services. Lilley and Reid argue for age-attuned policy development and specialist education for palliative practitioners as means to address age-related inequity and improve the outcomes for older adults using palliative care.

Upon publication of this issue of the journal, many parts of Aotearoa, and indeed other parts of the world, still grapple with the significant impacts of climate events like Cyclone Gabrielle, and other disasters. The anecdotal stories on the ground in Aotearoa during the summer of 2023 are of social workers responding to this disaster, volunteering to shovel silt, donning PE gear to retrieve belongings, providing networked support for the distribution of essentials and attending to the basic welfare and housing needs of those who have lost everything to floods, slips and cyclonic winds.

Social workers will be more than usually interested therefore in the timely insights offered by Kathryn Hay and colleagues who further report on their research project examining the role of social workers in the management of disasters. In “Social work disaster practice: Enhancing skills, community connections, and external relationships” Kathryn Hay, Katheryn Margaret Pascoe, Lee Henley, Fiona Knight, Kate Stewart and Gabor Radik examine in-depth case studies of social work disaster practice, including the 2004 Whanganui floods, and the 2011 Christchurch earthquake. The participants in this research offer valuable insight both into how social workers personally and professionally respond to such events, and how this practice could be formalised and strengthened.

The article articulates the transferability of social work skills to disaster work, highlights

the need for adaptability and creativity in the face of unprecedented circumstances. Emphasis is made on the reality that social workers may be both victims of disaster and central to the community or national response. Social workers bring a holistic perspective to challenges faced, acknowledging complexity, and the need to work at multi-levels of impact. A significant recommendation from the study is to strengthen existing networks and develop more effective processes of communication between agencies and services. Developing formal partnerships with disaster management and civil defence structures is offered as a way of better streamlining response. It also recommends specific skills development for social workers at the tertiary level, ongoing training for all social workers, and the creation of a group of skilled disaster response social workers to be ready and called upon when necessary.

In "Understanding sexual citizenship for Asian MSM in Aotearoa: Literature to inform social work practice of sexual justice", Spar Wong and Laura Chubb draw on the concept of sexual citizenship to explore social work practice with Asian men who have sex with men (MSM) in Aotearoa. By way of a narrative literature review, Wong and Chubb examine relevant sexual health issues for Asian men in the context of HIV and identify three themes relating to: sexual stigma and prejudice; sexual health and layered identities; and knowledge of safer sex practice. These issues affect the ability of Asian MSM in Aotearoa to have their rights upheld through culturally safe health care. The role of social work is crucial in advocating for people's rights, especially "in response to HIV globally and the sexual injustices that continue to occur".

In "The rationale of non-smoking adolescents' use of electronic cigarettes (vaping): A scoping review" Shaanika Caie and Guanyu Jason Ran explore the increasing prevalence of vaping using e-cigarettes among young people aged 13-18

in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Little research has been undertaken in this area to shed light on how social workers should respond to this issue. Caie and Ran's article presents a scoping review of the limited overseas research on the topic of vaping amongst young people. From this review, they identify that personal relationships including peer pressure; social context; ease of access; and the appealing features of vape products all contribute to use amongst this age group.

The article's discussion draws connections to the Aotearoa New Zealand context. Here they outline that New Zealand's legislative framework (the Smokefree Environment and Regulated Products (Vaping) amendment Act 2020) already addresses the main contributing factors to young people's use of vapes. This includes banning vaping in schools and other venues, the use of vapes in cars with under-18-year-olds present, enforcing restrictions on the flavours of vapes as well as where they can be sold. But, they suggest these positive steps may be undermined by the punitive approach taken by many schools in addressing young people who vape. Social workers within schools are described as pivotal in educating and advocating for young people through adopting a harm reduction approach. Further research is recommended to inform how social workers can best engage with and support young people around their use of e-cigarettes.

Anti-Asian sentiment featured in the social response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In "Asian communities' well-being in Aotearoa during Covid-19: The mitigating role of sense of belonging in the relationship between racism and life satisfaction", Lynne Soon-Chean Park, Rebekah Jaung, Joohyun Justine Park, and Changzoo Song utilised a cross-sectional online survey conducted in 2021 to explore whether the sense of belonging mitigated the adverse effects of racism on life satisfaction for self-identified Asian New Zealanders. Analyses of 1341 responses to the survey revealed that four out of 10 participants reported experiencing

racism in the first 18 months of the pandemic and participants' life satisfaction decreased slightly since January 2020 ($p < 0.001$). This experience of racism was associated with decreased life satisfaction. Having a sense of belonging reduced the magnitude of this negative association between racism experience and life satisfaction, especially expressing one's own ethnic identity and belonging in Aotearoa New Zealand. In this valuable, topical article, Park et al. support a call within social work for a stronger conceptual, intersectional framework for understanding anti-Asian racism within our society. The authors suggest that social workers can play an important role in improving social justice by committing to an explicitly anti-racist social work praxis.

Finally, in this issue, we present three book reviews. Eileen Joy reviews *Social Work in the Age of Disconnection: Narrative Case Studies* edited by Michael Jarrette-Kenny and Miriam Jaffe. Matt Rankine reviews *The Strength-Based Clinical Supervision Workbook: A Complete Guide for Mental Health Trainees and Supervisors* by Christopher L. Heffner and Jessica A. Cowan, and Liz Beddoe reviews *The Challenge of Right-wing Populism – A Human Rights Approach* edited by Carolyn Noble and Goetz Ottman. Writing a book review is a great contribution to the journal and a way to build your personal library. If you would like to have opportunities to review new books, please email our book reviews editor Dr Eileen Joy, with details of your social work role and reviewing interests Eileen.joy@auckland.ac.nz.

In 2023, we will be publishing an issue of both *Te Komako* and *Tu Mau* and a special issue on reproductive justice and social work and social and health policy. We thank all our authors and peer reviewers for their significant contributions to this and forthcoming issues.

Liz Beddoe

For the editorial collective