
Editorial

Kieran O'Donoghue

In this issue, our contributors address a range of complex and challenging questions facing people who use social services, social work practitioners, community workers and policy makers. The content of this issue traverses the ecological and life-span continua, and is a reminder of the increasing specialisation occurring within fields of practice across the generalist social work profession. A theme present across the articles is the uncertainty, complexity and chaos of social work practice and how we as social workers are the people who find themselves in the middle of such situations and work in the 'in-between' space. It is particularly notable that a number of authors discuss the importance of the social worker's personal attributes, particularly the ability to engage in respectful relationships, communicate, network and mobilise social supports.

The lead article by Jane Maidment, Ronnie Egan and Jane Wexler, particularly illustrates this through reporting the views of culturally and linguistically diverse older people, their care workers and families about their experiences of being cared for and caring, and the importance of respectful relationships and interpersonal communication when working with this client group.

In the second article, Alan Bartley, Liz Beddoe, Jan Duke, Christa Fouché, Phil Harrington and Ritesh Shah explore the challenging question of the social work workforce in a globalised world and the implications of this for social work practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. The authors identify the valuable contribution migrant social workers make to the New Zealand social care system, particularly in the statutory fields of health and child welfare and the challenges they faced as a consequence of their entry into the New Zealand social work environment.

The next article by Sally Phillips and Lesley Pitt explores from a feminist perspective the question of women's recovery from post partum depression. They identify challenges pertaining to meeting client needs within a dominant evidence-based health discourse. They discuss the role women's networks and professionals have in the women's recovery and remind us of the importance of support networks.

In the fourth article, Jenny Aimers and Peter Walker discuss the place of community development within social work, particularly the challenges grass-roots community development practitioners face within the social services marketplace, where the state is patron, policy-maker, purchaser and sometime provider.

The complexity, challenges and chaos of emerging adulthood for those between 18 and 25 years is considered by Peter Stanley who recommends that more attention is paid to this age group by policy-makers, practitioners and social service managers.

This issue concludes with two contrasting offerings in the practice notes section. The first is a report by Christine Corin about the Christchurch Hospital's social work service's emergency response to the February 22 earthquake. This report is both a compelling read and an historical record of social workers' response to this tragic disaster. The second offer-

ing is Tiffany Apaitia-Vague's reflection on the relationship between social work and food. Tiffany explores the significance of food for wellbeing, together with the issues of social justice pertaining to food preparation, provision and supply in this globalised world.

I hope you enjoy the banquet presented in this issue. The next issue is a special issue focused on field education and will be edited by Kathryn Hay and Dominic Chilvers.

Kieran O'Donoghue
Co-editor
