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# Book reviews

## Book review policy

The policy of *Social Work Review* is to offer books for review to ANZASW members in the first instance. New reviewers are welcome and any member who would like to be added to the list is invited to write (preferably by e-mail) or telephone the Book Review Editor. It is most helpful to the Editor if you are able to identify specific titles from those offered below that match your area of interest. If you wish to discuss any of the books, or want to make a more general inquiry about book reviewing you are most welcome to make contact. Once a review is completed, the book becomes the property of the reviewer.

## Publications available for review

- Batsleer, J. (2013). *Youth working with girls and women in community settings – A feminist perspective*. London: Ashgate.
- Beresford, P., & Carr, S. (Eds.). (2012). *Social care, service users and user involvement*. London: Jessica Kingsley.
- Bland, R., Renouf, N. & Tullgren, A. (2015). *Social work practice in mental health: An introduction*. Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin
- Bottrell, D. & Goodwin, S. (Eds.). (2011). *Schools, communities and social inclusion*. South Yarra: Palgrave Macmillan.
- English, A., Selby, R., & Bell, H. (2011). *Working with whanau: Maori social work in schools*. Palmerston North: Massey University.
- Hessle, S. (Ed.). (2014). *Human rights and social equality: Challenges for social work. Social Work-Social Development Volume 1*. England: Ashgate.
- Hessle, S. (Ed.). (2014). *Global social transformation and social action: The role of social workers. Social Work-Social Development Volume 2*. England: Ashgate.
- Hessle, S. (Ed.). (2014). *Environmental change and sustainable social development. Social Work-Social Development Volume 3*. England: Ashgate.
- James, A.M. (2009). *Brothers and sisters in adoption: Helping children navigate relationships when new kids join the family*. Indianapolis: Perspectives Press.
- Matthies, A-L., & Uggerhøj, L. (Eds.). (2014). *Participation, marginalization and welfare services: Concepts, politics and practices across European countries*. England: Ashgate.
- Melcher, M. (2014). *How to create a successful adoption portfolio*. London: JKP.
- Morrell, M. (2014). *Towards gold-standard supervision*. South Australia: Margaret Morrell & Assocs. Ltd.
- Morley, C. (2014). *Practising critical reflection to develop emancipatory change – Challenging the legal approach to sexual assault*. England: Ashgate.
- Pack, M. & Cargill, J. (2014). (Eds.). *Evidence discovery and assessment in social work practice*. Hershey, USA: IGI Global.
- Sapin, K. (2013). *Essential skills for youth work practice* (2nd edn.). London: Sage.
- Selby, R., English, A., & Bell, H. (2011). *Social workers in schools: A New Zealand Maori experience*. Palmerston North: Massey University.
- Steinberg, G., & Hall, B. (2000). *Inside transracial adoption*. Indianapolis: Perspectives Press.

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- Tomlins-Jahnke, H., & Mulholland, M. (Eds.). (2011). *Mana tangata politics of empowerment*. Wellington: Huia.
- Trotter, C. (2015). *Working with involuntary clients – A guide to practice*, 3rd ed. Melbourne: Allen & Unwin.
- Wadsworth, Y. (2010). *Building in research and evaluation: Human inquiry for living systems*. Crows Nest NSW: Allen & Unwin.
- Williams, L., Roberts, R., & McIntosh, A. (Eds.). (2012). *Radical human ecology: Intercultural and indigenous approaches*. Surrey: Ashgate.

**eBooks also available for review**

- Margaret, J. (2013). *Working as allies: Supporters of indigenous justice reflect*. New Zealand: Awea Publications.

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***Mastering whole family assessment in social work: Balancing the needs of children, adults and their families.* By Fiona Mainstone. Jessica Kingsley Publishers. London and Philadelphia. Paperback, 280 pages.**

I found this book stimulating and immediately useful. It deals specifically with the complex task of understanding the relationship between assessments undertaken in adult services and those undertaken in children's services, and how adult and children's services can best work together to ensure that children's needs can be prioritised whilst simultaneously supporting the adults who care for them. In doing so, the book brings together aspects of assessment necessary for understanding the dynamics of safety, risk and intensive family support within child protection social work.

Whilst written in clear, easily understood language, this is a book for experienced social work practitioners rather than beginning practitioners – it does not tell you how to undertake an assessment, it deals with what it is necessary to assess, how to make collaborative sense of data gathered and how to utilise this understanding to enhance collaborative practice with families.

The book follows a structured process that guides the reader through six phases of understanding the work of whole family assessment, bringing together a depth of assessment practice across adult and children's services, and offering a collaborative framework in

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which the needs of individual family members can be understood within the context of the interdependent needs of all family members.

Analysis and application of the described social work practice is supported with the use of case studies, questions and exercises throughout each phase, that provide the reader opportunity to reflect on their practice, whilst considering the information presented by the author. This approach almost compels the reader to actively engage with the ideas within the text, encouraging critical reflection and a depth of learning. This makes the book a valuable resource for both individual practitioners and those with supervisory or teaching/training responsibilities. Some of the exercises require the reader to have viewed or read specific films or books – the impact of the exercise is somewhat lost if one has not done so.

The author establishes the validity of her work with extensive reference to relevant literature throughout the book. Within each chapter, research findings and statistical data are provided to demonstrate the relevance and applicability of the social work practice discussed and described. Whilst the author primarily refers to statistical information in the UK, it was not difficult to transpose the information and relate it to legislation and social service delivery practice and policy within the Aotearoa New Zealand context.

This is a book that will be kept handy and referred to regularly. It brings together a wealth of information and practice guidance to enhance robust, collaborative, child-focused whole family social work assessment practice.

Jennie Payne

MANZASW, RSW, Care and Protection Supervisor, Child Youth and Family.

***Social work and domestic violence: Developing critical and reflective practice.* By Lesley Laing and Cathy Humphreys with Kate Cavanagh (2013). Sage Publications Ltd. Paperback. 173 pages.**

This excellent text on the subject of social work and domestic violence offers a current viewpoint of domestic violence which supports social work students/practitioners developing a critical eye on the subject. While written from an Australian and UK perspective (with a brief mention of the New Zealand context) the topics covered are of no less relevance to us.

This book provides a sound evidence-base from which those involved in this critical area of social work can apply their knowledge of theory, research and policy to their practice. Relevant topics covered are:

- Key concepts in social work and domestic violence
- Naming and framing domestic violence: engaging with complexity
- Contemporary legal and policy contexts
- Practices with women
- Children and domestic violence: Complexities in responding to the statutory duty to protect
- Practice with men in the domestic violence context

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- Multi-agency work: collaborating for women's and children's safety
  - Concluding reflections

Each topic begins with a vignette which provides the context, raises questions and highlights different social divisions such as ability, sexuality, gender or systems issues. It looks at this subject matter from a historical perspective along with a contemporary focus based on current supporting evidence. At the end of each topic probing questions are raised to encourage critical reflection by practitioners and their supervisors, along with further suggested readings for those wanting to extend their knowledge.

As a practitioner involved in the area of domestic violence, I found this book to be thought-provoking, informative and extremely relevant. It reinforces the absolute need to ensure safety for those adults and children who require it, and also accountability for those who are perpetrating violence.

This is a book that I recommend and encourage all those working within the various fields of social work practice to read. Sadly, domestic violence, family violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs across society and continues to be very much alive and well in Aotearoa New Zealand. Therefore, a comprehensive social response such as social marketing, e.g. the 'It's Not OK' and 'White Ribbon campaigns', continued community and family/whanau discussions as well as an integrated institutional response, is needed.

Ngairé Sheppard,  
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**Crosson-Tower, Cynthia. (2015). *Confronting child and adolescent sexual abuse*. Los Angeles: Sage. Softcover, 353 pages.**

Every so often a text is published worthy of being a standard work of reference for many years to come. With *Confronting child and adolescent sexual abuse*, Cynthia Crosson-Tower has succeeded in placing an encompassing resource in the hands of helping professionals to understand and confront the plague of the sexual victimisation of children and young people in our communities. Not only does she share with the reader from her rich practice experience in this field, she also succeeds in distilling the most helpful insights from the voluminous body of scholarly research on the subject into an easy-to-read volume. The text is illustrated with illuminating case vignettes. Social workers in New Zealand typically find themselves in a quandary when they face disclosures of sexual misconduct against children and young people. Their training is often inadequate for them to deal confidently with these vulnerable clients, whilst the resources available in the community are mostly overburdened and sometimes limited. This text by Crosson-Tower will garner attention in both practitioner and academic circles for the clarity that it brings to the subject of child and adolescent sexual abuse, and will be a guide for greater understanding and appropriate interventions.

The contents of the book are presented in three sections and are summarised as follows:

**Part I** provides the reader with an overview of the sexual victimisation of children and adolescents.

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Chapter 1 gives a history of sexual abuse and intervention, highlights the surge of interest in child sexual abuse in the 1980s, and points out how the arrival of the Internet puts children at greater risk of sexual molestation. Chapter 2 focuses on the dynamics of child sexual abuse. Factors that determine whether or not the child is traumatised are discussed, and myths of sexual abuse are debunked. The various forms of child sexual abuse are clarified, as well as the cunning ways a molester engages with and grooms the child. The reader comes to understand how the perpetrator grooms the adults in the child's life in order to unobtrusively gain access to the child. In Chapter 3, some of the models that have developed to explain sexual abuse and sexual offending are explained.

**Part II** directs the reader's attention to the victims, the perpetrators and the non-offending parents.

Chapter 4 is one of the most helpful chapters for the social worker. The reader gains a greater understanding of the effect of sexual abuse on children at different ages and the tell-tale signs that indicate that abuse may be happening.

Chapter 5 places the sexual offender in the spotlight. Here the reader will find insightful information on the childhood influences that may have played a role in the origins of sexual offending, and some factors that may propel men to become molesters. The author makes it clear, nevertheless, that there are points where all offenders could have made the choice not to offend. She continues to highlight the characteristics associated with male sexual offenders, and touches briefly on the characteristics of the female sexual offender.

Chapter 6 offers different frameworks to explain intra-familial sexual abuse, and highlights various types of incest.

In Chapter 7, the author delineates how the Internet allows the paedophile to gain access to a child in his own home, and how online pornography may entice a child to participate in the abuse, or expose the child to sexual behaviour that is beyond its maturity level. The dangers of pornography are scrutinised from various angles, including the issue of sexting. The author then provides the reader with sensible strategies to prevent sexual victimisation through cyberspace.

Chapter 8 sheds light on the sexually abusive child and adolescent, followed by two chapters that explore sexual offending by those in authority positions, including clergy.

**Part III** is dedicated to intervention.

Chapter 11 has some helpful thoughts on the reporting processes, and provides much needed insight into the bewilderment that the child experiences following the disclosure of sexual abuse, and the ensuing fear, guilt, shame and uncertainty.

In Chapter 12, the continuing assessment and treatment planning receives attention, followed by a chapter dedicated to the treatment of victims and their families. The reader is left with the clear message that the early treatment of sexual abuse can mitigate its adverse effect. The author points out a number of factors that make for effective therapy, and calls attention to treatment issues with respect to the child victim and its family.

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Chapter 14 explores the help that can be given to the adult survivor of sexual victimisation in childhood.

Chapter 15 elaborates on some personal issues that need to be addressed should one choose to work in the area of child sexual abuse. In the concluding chapter, the author provides insights into the prevention of child sexual abuse.

Crosson-Tower wrote in her Preface, '...I began this book with some sadness. It is sad that such a text is necessary' (p. xviii). We know that it is indeed a much needed and timely resource for every practitioner who has to confront child and adolescent sexual abuse. The author's passion to make a difference in the lives of those children and young people who have been affected by sexual abuse is clear throughout this text; that same passion is birthed in the reader. I regard this hot-off-the-press text as a must-read for all practitioners who work with sexually abused children and adolescents.

Francois Bredenkamp

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