
Editorial

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In this issue of *Review* we have included articles in which we see social workers working to find solutions and to provide support to families in fields of practice where they work with loss and crisis. The importance of finding ways of managing issues of grief, loss and their impact on parents, siblings and the wider family group are a core aspect of social work.

Nikki Evans and John Dunlop remind us of this in their article, reflecting on an emerging area of practice within youth justice, care and protection and community in ways that link relevant theory and research with local services and outcomes. This field of social work practice should be given more support than ever, considering the current attention being paid to youth issues and the need to counter high levels of young people re-offending.

Our second article, by Jane Parsons, is based on her research into the perinatal health of young women and the health services available to them. This theorised piece reminds social workers that they have a role to play in ensuring that young women can access holistic services during and after pregnancy. It raises practice and policy issues and we hope it encourages some readers to look at how policies in this area could be changed for the better.

The third article features mental health and addictions as a developing field within social work practice. Jessica Kean discusses the importance of social work practice with the families that come into contact with mental health and addiction services. Given that the mental health guidelines were developed for family involvement as a response to the Burton Report (Paterson, 2002), yet had little input from social workers, this is a useful contribution capable of stimulating our determination to further develop our practice knowledge.

It is followed by Barnaby Pace's discussion of the roles of social workers and support workers in Community Mental Health Services. Here it is argued that there is confusion between the two roles and we hope that the article stimulates debate on the issues it raises. Our reviewers certainly felt this and one noted that the current climate of cutbacks and restructuring put support workers under ever greater pressure to fill social work roles.

There are two articles in practice notes, which both contain material presented at the APASWE conference in Auckland, November 2009. The first, Charmaine Wheeler and Helen Simmons' 'Loitering with intent' presents in dialogue format a picture of Charmaine's final social work placement as a school social worker. It models a community development approach and features a strengths-based approach in supervision. This article provides an appealing combination of humour, wisdom and practical ideas.

Finally, Kate Stewart presents her practice-based research into the development of a critical incident team. Her work portrays an increasingly important new aspect of practice, the involvement of the service user, and she does so with the particularly challenging client group of young people in a residential setting.

Social work has wide-ranging application, and there is plenty of scope here for readers to transfer the ideas, questions and learning from these articles to their own particular fields of practice. In coming issues of the *Journal*, we will continue presenting articles from papers presented at the November APASWE Conference and there will be a special health issue, edited by our guest editor, Liz Beddoe. We also look forward to future issues of Tu Mau and Te Komako.

Reference

Paterson, R. (2002). *Southland District Health Board Mental Health Services February–March 2001*. Auckland: Health and Disability Commission.
