
Editorial

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As I write, world social work day has just been celebrated around the world, with its theme of social development. This raises the question of what social development do we want to promote in Aotearoa New Zealand for 2009-10, and how will we achieve it? In the IFSW Statement to the UN Commission for Social Development, social integration was identified as an important factor in promoting social justice, human rights and social development. The statement unpacked the concept of social integration, stating that:

Social integration as a concept speaks to all members of society having full access to the opportunities, rights and services available to mainstream society. Social integration of people should encompass all realms of society and should include: cultural, social, political, economic and the spiritual. Social integration should not imply the imposition of uniformity, but a respect for diversity, protection of human rights for all, and equality of opportunity (<http://www.ifsw.org/en/p38001664.html> 23/3/09).

The IFSW calls upon the Commission for Social Development to 'support social integration by supporting those organisations that promote interaction and solidarity at all levels of society' (ibid). In today's economic and political environment, we could do worse than take these words on board and reflect on what we are doing and what more we could do in the name of solidarity in the NGO sector.

The selection of articles sent in by our readers for this issue reflects some of these ideas, indicating that while we may start from a home base, we can still play the international field.

The lead article we have chosen explores the place of compassion in the processes we use to try and bring about social justice in and for our interdependent communities. This is a timely topic especially as we are working in what are likely to be harsh economic and political environments which favour the strong against the weak. Two other articles focus on the role of community. The first is a reflective piece about the establishment of a primary health organisation designed to improve equitable access to mental health services. The roles of social work's traditional concerns of social justice, Treaty of Waitangi principles of partnership, protection, self-determination and participation, and a holistic approach to health care are reflected in this work and the reader may relate them back to Milner's article.

In a different mood, using Third Way vocabulary, we are next challenged by Walker and Aimers to consider the possible consequences for the relationship between the third sector and its communities of the funding and contracting partnerships between government organisations and the third sector. In short, the question they pose is 'which way is accountability directed and what does this mean for our social work ethics?'

Three further articles are included in which readers can find out more about fields of practice (child protection in a call centre, elder abuse and neglect, and the witnessing by children of intimate partner abuse.) These are the research-based fruits of qualitative re-

search, and critical literature reviews. The insight into child protection work in a call centre is particularly intriguing and novel.

The critical literature reviews offer a valuable starting point for any research and indeed for any group wanting to review best practice and options for change in the services they provide to the public.

We wish you all happy reading and may you be inspired to write to us with articles and practice notes which shed light on the work you do and what inspires you to do it.
