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# Encouragement with good strategies as well

*Mary Ann Baskerville*

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*Mary Ann has been a member of ANZASW for more than 30 years. She has been on the National Executive as Treasurer twice and has been active in the Manawatu-Whanganui Branch Committee for many years. Since retiring from Massey University in 2007, she has been ANZASW Recertification Coordinator for the North Island and is in private practice. She has had a number of articles published in the Journal over the years, most recently she has co-authored articles with MSW students she has supervised.*

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**McKenzie, Margaret. (1998). You should write that up: Getting practitioners started on writing for publication. Social Work Review, X(4), 20-24.**

The phrase 'You should write that up' has been a commonly used and heard one during both my time in academia and now as an ANZASW Recertification Coordinator. Margaret McKenzie's article in the December 1998 issue of Social Work Review provided some excellent strategies for practitioners to get writing and publishing. Despite a number of journal articles, Conference presentations and training days, it does not appear that the profession has improved significantly in committing their practice for publication.

I know workload and confidence are major issues and that is why I would like to add a few more strategies to those proposed in Margaret's article.

1. If someone has said to you: 'You should write that up', take them seriously. You could even challenge them to help you do it.
2. Writing does not need to be a lonely, individual exercise. Find a partner to encourage you to put your practice notes into journal form, edit drafts and then co-publish. When it appears in the Journal, celebrate together.
3. If you have been encouraged to rewrite an academic assignment for publication, ask the lecturer to get you started or co-publish with you. They got you through your paper, so they can continue to motivate you.
4. If you can't find a partner to assist, contact the editors and they will either assist or refer you to someone in your area who is willing to help get you started.
5. Ask your team or supervisor to give you space to write up the first draft and then to assist with reading and editing. It can be a team effort. Likewise, supervisors can facilitate and encourage team members by giving them encouragement and space to commit their innovative practice models to paper.

In my first year as Recertification Coordinator, panel members have regularly used the words 'awesome', 'outstanding', 'at the top of their game' to describe the practice presented.

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Members can and do share this knowledge locally through training sessions, but professional networking through publishing in *Notice Board* or a professional journal can reach thousands rather than dozens of practitioners.

The next time you hear the words: 'You should write that up', accept the compliment, read Margaret's article and then find a strategy that fits your circumstances and Get Publishing!

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# You should write that up: Getting practitioners started on writing for publication

*Margaret McKenzie*

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*This article is based upon a workshop presented at the recent ANZSW conference by Margaret McKenzie and Raylee Kane (Co-editors of Social Work Review) which was designed to encourage and enable social work practitioners to write for publication (preferably in the New Zealand Social Work Review).<sup>1</sup>*

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## Introduction

The Social Work Review Editorial team and Board is keen to maintain a practice focus to the journal. Many overseas journal editors applaud the retention of practitioner involvement and practice-based writing which the journal has achieved to date. This key focus can only continue if practitioners do write for us!

The article will:

- a) Encourage those practitioners who would like to get their work published but are inexperienced and unsure how to go about achieving this goal.
- b) Encourage those who have not really considered writing up their work but who have had people say 'you should write that up', but wonder how to get started.

The aim is to provide a mixture of information and practical exercises which will serve as potential starters in the writing process.

The article comprises three parts:

- Part One, a discussion of some of the reasons for writing and publishing on social work practice for the journal (*what we want from you*)

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<sup>1</sup> Developed after attendance at a publishing workshop presented by Dr Sally Brown, University of Northumbria, Otago Polytechnic, Dunedin, June, 1998.