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# Editorial

Mary Nash

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The selection of articles for publication is not always straightforward, and much goes on behind the scenes in order to produce the finished product. Editors and contributors always owe a debt of gratitude to reviewers and in this editorial I have decided to draw on some of the reviewers' penetrating insights and the questions they have posed. I hope this will, without annoying the contributors, encourage new reviewers to respond with confidence when invited to review material submitted to the Journal, in the knowledge that their work is seen to be of considerable value.

Several themes weave through the diverse selection of articles in this issue of *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work*. Reflection, research and evaluation, as well as experiential learning stand out as informing the material we have selected, to which we have added an opinion piece on the challenges facing social workers as we move into new territory for physical and mental health interventions.

Hyslop has tackled the significant issue of changes to child welfare in Aotearoa New Zealand using a comparative critique between the New Zealand White Paper for Vulnerable Children and the views expressed in the Munro Review of Child Protection in England. One reviewer observed that it is not all smooth sailing in other jurisdictions and in the UK change is very slow. While Munro provided a landscape for policy and practice shifts, little as yet shows that practice is becoming less techno-rationalist. Might social workers have become comfortable functioning within a techno-sciences framework? In this context, Hyslop therefore argues that it is 'time for the social work voice to be rediscovered and reasserted if effective, relationally engaged practice with high-needs children and their families is to be developed and promoted in politically challenging times'.

The argument for effective and relationally engaged social work practice would be strengthened by the use of the three approaches to exploring and writing about family-centred social work practice proposed by Gibbs in the next article. Gibbs is arguing that social work practitioners can use auto-ethnography, the solo service-user voice and reflective case study analysis as useful strategies for collecting robust information on which to base a 'series of practitioner pieces aimed at improving knowledge and methods in family-centred social work practice'. Her arguments and the models proposed are ones that readers may well consider for their own practice. At the very least, they would make good material to bring to supervision.

Which brings us to the next article, about interprofessional supervision in social work and psychology in Aotearoa New Zealand. Here our reviewers noted that there was a good response to Howard, Beddoe and Mowjood's survey, predicting that this topic is of interest to both practitioners in smaller provincial areas where supervisors may be unavailable and for those looking for particular expertise. The reader will see how the authors set out for both supervisors and supervisees the advantages and limitations of this model and some pointers on both of these to be aware of.

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On a very different note, but an equally significant one, we include Stanfield and Beddoe on 'Social Work and the Media: Common Passions?' These authors, in responding to their reviewers, took a rather unusual but very helpful approach in which they highlighted each point made by a reviewer and how they had addressed it. The result resembles a dialogue, and illustrated how the authors made use of the constructive ideas being put forward. Stanfield and Beddoe have raised the issue of how social workers can make better use of social media, and readers will agree with their suggestion that increased media skills for social workers potentially contributes to their leadership in professional organisations and as employers/managers.

Pitt has written on another essential topic for social workers, one that has received less research and coverage in a social work context in New Zealand than overseas. Drawing on her knowledge of Taranaki, she looks at 'issues of theory and practice in relation to the environment and social justice'. One reviewer emphasised the importance of environmental social work, which is now on the agenda of the social work international agencies eg. IFSW / IASSW. Drawing attention to a growing body of literature coming from Europe, the US, Australia and the Pacific nations. This article brings a local example of the impacts of environmental issues and social work together. There are growing areas of concern similar to the Taranaki examples amongst the general population and social workers alike, and readers may wish to discuss these and take action if only to write to local newspaper or use other forms of social media.

Gaffney and Munro, with their group of contributors living life to the max, present and discuss: 'Young People's Participation in Service Evaluation'. Few such articles come to this journal, and the reviewers were unanimous in their interest and support for the topic and its presentation. Evidence of good practice needs to be accompanied with the service users' voices, and this article has raised some interesting issues around presentation of research findings in terms of ensuring all voices are authentically heard. The article poses and sheds light on relevant questions regarding client participation and connects with wider social policy initiatives through its alignment with government youth policy. It also acknowledges and connects with other research in the area.

Ingamells, Napan and Gasquoine have co-authored their research study of Strengths in Action: A Pilot Study of a Strengths Development Programme within Tertiary Education Utilising the Clifton StrengthsQuest™ & Narratives of Strengths Interviews. While this article is particularly relevant to social work education, it also has broader implications for social work practice. It is applying a fundamental social work perspective (strengths-based practice) on a personal level to social work and nursing students, allowing them the opportunity to have a real-life experience of the perspective in practice. This goes beyond role playing to experiential learning and brings the practice to life.

Which brings us to Winkelman's opinion piece on future challenges facing social workers working in the physical and mental health fields and how they can be met. Winkelman, having identified the challenges, suggests how they can be faced using 'an evidence-informed practice and interventions in a culturally and Treaty-responsive pathway'. This is a useful note on which to end. It offers a renewed invitation to the reader to consider how she or he takes that 'culturally and Treaty-responsive pathway' in their daily practice. I say 'renewed' because at times Te Tiriti is taken for granted, or relegated to the end of a long list of things

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to attend to, when, whether we are tangata whenua or not, it should be in the forefront of our thinking. It remains our opportunity, our invitation to best practice. On which note, and with thanks to our contributors and their reviewers alike, I commend this issue of the Journal to you, the reader.

**A note from the editors for issue 25(4)**

Referencing for this issue of Aotearoa New Zealand Social Worker, Review Issue complies with the 2013 published guidelines. Unfortunately, these do not fit with the recommended APA 6th referencing guide. This issue of the journal carries revised guidelines for authors and future issues will comply with the APA 6th referencing style.

**Book reviews**

We are keen to extend our network of potential book reviewers. If you are interested, please provide your name, address and organisational and professional affiliation, and indicate your area/s of expertise.

Mary Nash and Kieran O'Donoghue, Editors.

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