
Editorial – Celebrating 50 years of professional social work

Mary Nash

In this 50th anniversary year of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers, my mind looks back at the history of the journal and those who have been involved in its production. Our journal is a platform for members to express their views, share their research, promote the profession and advocate for best practice and social justice. This issue is no exception, with its wide variety of articles, some of which were submitted in late 2013.

Authors have covered a range of issues and have used an interesting assortment of methods for exploring them. Issues covered include a discussion on how unions might help to strengthen the social work voice (Ross), followed by a useful discussion of research literature into children and survival sex with relevance for New Zealand (Thorburn and de Haan). Kendall invites the reader to share his reflective journey as he responds to clients who receive a terminal diagnosis. The next article by Henrickson, Fouché, Poindexter, Brown and Scott considers how host countries respond to Black African migrants and refugees living with AIDS.

The next two articles consider supervision, first from a student perspective (Moorhouse, Hay, & O'Donoghue), and secondly looking at cross-disciplinary practice (Hutchings, Cooper, & O'Donoghue). Another student-focused article presents the findings of a study which explores the spiritual dimension in social work education and practice as described by Pakeha students at Te Wananga O Aotearoa (Phillips). Our final article is a practitioner account of the history of adult adoption issue since the implementation of the Adult Adoption Information Act 1985 (Aburn).

The journal, of course, has its own history. It has been produced with barely a break since 1965. A quarterly publication of the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers, the journal has had several titles since it began. We list these here for our readers who may wonder how to find our earliest publications.

Journal titles

The New Zealand Social Worker	1965-1975. Vols 1-11(3)
New Zealand Social Work Journal	1977-88. Vols 1-12 (3-4)
Social Work Review	1988 (Dec)-2007, Vols 1-19(2)
Te Komako	inaugural issue – 1995
Tu Mau	inaugural issue – 2001
Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work Review edition	2007, Vol 19(3)-
Te Komako	
Tu Mau	

Members of the Association have been generous in supporting the journal, as editors and guest editors, as members of our editorial boards, the book review editors, reviewers and contributors. The behind-the-scenes work of proof readers (currently Ted Walker), copy

editors (currently Dinah Wales) and the staff at National Office should not be forgotten either. A list of editors is included after this editorial.

In the early volumes, an index to articles was included, providing valuable assistance for the researcher. The cover of the journal has varied according to imagination, technology and means, as have visuals such as photos and cartoons or diagrams. The earliest covers depicted local branch members or conference venues, while covers for the *Social Work Review* issues of *Te Komako* and *Tu Mau* were full of meaning, conveyed with care and artistry. From time to time, the editors receive critical comment concerning the present neutral cover which never varies.

The journal has been put under the research microscope and its editorial policy, or coverage of particular themes have been analysed and discussed (Whibley-Smith, Selby, & Baskerville, 2002; Hancock, & Nash 2005). Like us, the editors for the *Journal of Social Work Education* have celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, and in reviewing the publication Robbins (2014) contrasts the highly conceptual material of the early years to the empirical and quantitative articles now in fashion. It is interesting to note, in this context, that O'Brien (2014) makes a comparable point regarding contributions to our own journal. The journal has recently been reviewed by National Office and we hope that its future will be bright and enhanced by the best of technological opportunities bringing with them international acclaim.

References

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- O'Brien, M. (2014). The world we're in: Social work now and then. *Aotearoa New Zealand Social Work, Review edition*, 26(2&3), 7-16.
- Robbins, S.P. (2014). From the editor – Celebrating our 50th! *Journal of Social Work Education*, 50(1), 1-4, Retrieved from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2014.856222>.
- Whibley-Smith, A., Selby, R., & Baskerville, M. (2002). Reviewing the review: A review of the ANZASW Social Work Review Journal from 1988-2000. *Social Work Review*, 14(14), 6-9.
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