

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

President's Report

Earlier this month a group of Branch members got together under the convenorship of Robyn Kerr to prepare a submission to the Ministerial Inquiry into the portrayal of violence in the electronic media. This was a demonstration of how a small group of people brought together at very short notice could produce what I believe is a worthwhile paper to assist in addressing issues relevant to the impact of violence as portrayed in the media. I would like to personally thank all those people, Anne Blanchard, Nic James, Chris Coopes and Lynn Selepak for their ideas and their preparedness to assist in the preparation of the submission.

This is yet another example, of how people who are committed to their profession can ensure it takes its place in making input into the development of social policy.

It is particularly important at this time when we are being driven by extremes of economic rationalism and the pursuit of an ever increasing degree of hedonism, that social workers speak out on issues that impact on both the practice of their profession and on those people and groups who are at greatest disadvantage in this consumer oriented economic world.

I would urge all my colleagues to consider being prepared to join committees and working parties, to constantly put pressure on both the bureaucratic and political decision makers who continually measure society's well being in economic terms. We need to make clear what kind of society we wish to live and share in and leave for future generations.

It is significant that this year the Branch conference will focus on the topic of a civil society. This will hopefully put back on, at least our professional agenda, the importance of social benefits and matters of humanity. While recognising that for any society to be able to afford to look at issues beyond mere survival, it must have an economic base, but critically in an advanced modern state which has all the accoutrements of Western Civilisation, it is critical that we examine our role and take on the responsibility of ensuring that decisions makers look at other than economic imperatives.

One simple way of doing this for all of you out there to think about how you might assist the Branch in lobbying and voicing our concerns and some of the solutions we might like to offer as professional social workers dealing with growing inequities in our

society and the inability of government and government bureaucracies to address the real social issues.

We are all well aware of the constant shrinking of the public purse. In Western Australia, this is of particular significance as we are all again facing increasing cuts to government agencies and those agencies funded by government revenue. Next year will be a post election year, and if we think that the stringencies of this year are anything to go on, then next year is surely going to be even harder.

It is up to all of you out there who work within the profession to assist your Branch and your National Association to voice the profession's views and put on the public agenda matters of social concern and social conscience.

I therefore commend the efforts of people in the Branch who are prepared at short notice to get together to prepare and send off our contribution to what is an important social and national debate.

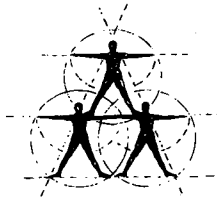
BRIAN WOOLLER

SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

At the AASW Ltd Board of Directors Meeting held 11-13 November 1994, the following recommended Schedule of Fees was endorsed for social work services provided by Social Workers eligible for membership of the AASW Ltd.

- ◆ Casework \$90 per hour
- ◆ Supervision \$90 per hour
- ◆ Consultancy \$120 per hour
- ◆ Education Consultancy \$120 per hour
- ◆ Groupwork \$120 per hour, per group

WE'RE PROUD TO BE A MAJOR SPONSOR OF
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The West Australian Branch of the AASW Ltd wishes to acknowledge the support of the following sponsors for the 50th Anniversary Conference.

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Parkinson's Disease and the Social Worker A Review

This is a very readable 12 page booklet originally produced by the Parkinson's Disease Society in London. It has been adapted by two social workers for the Parkinson's Association of Western Australia.

It provides a description of Parkinson's Disease and the physical impact of the disease on the sufferer. It discusses in detail how social work interventions could impact on the way people, both sufferers and carers, cope with the many ways Parkinson's Disease may affect their lives.

There is also a small section devoted to resources, including finances and respite care, and short discussions about the impact of hospitalisation and nursing home admission.

The booklet is a useful tool for social workers working in the area of chronic and disabling illness.

Parkinson's Disease and the Social Worker is available at a cost of \$5 from the Parkinson's Association of Western Australia, 230 Rokeby Road, Subiaco 6008, Tel: 381.8699.

MEDIA RELEASES

The Australian Association of Social Workers National President, Imelda Dodds, today congratulated the Commonwealth Government and Opposition Parties for their continued commitment to gun law reform and, in the face of an apparent weakening of resolve, called upon all States and Territories to reaffirm their commitment.

Ms Dodds criticised sectional groups for what she labelled a narrow self-interested approach. The AASW did not deny the place for firearms in the rural sector but noted the weight of evidence provided by many gun-owners that automatic and semi-automatic weapons are not necessary on the farm.

"All too often, social workers and our colleagues in the health and welfare fields see the tragic consequences of easy access to firearms", she said. "Port Arthur, Hoddle Street, Strathfield are extreme and devastating incidents. So too, are the deaths in domestic violence, violent crime and suicide situations. Men, women and children in urban and rural Australia have paid dearly for the prevalence of firearms and will continue to do so unless these reforms succeed."

Ms Dodds endorsed the Deputy Prime Minister's comments that Australia has a rare opportunity to legislate effectively for firearms control, and we must seize that opportunity now.

Two Year Wait - Discriminatory and Costly

The Australian Association of Social Workers today severely criticised the Commonwealth Government's move to make legislative changes to the Social Security Act which would see a two year waiting period for the vast majority of benefits.

"If passed, these changes will mean effectively that it will be harder and take longer for migrants to find employment and establish themselves", Imelda Dodds, the National President of the AASW, said.

"When individuals cannot get support to find a job, of course this must have a negative impact", she said.

The proposed safety net procedures are unworkable and costly, and would lead to an increased number of appeals to the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. In addition, the reduction of eligibility levels from a bank account of less than \$5,000 to \$500 was insupportable, according to Ms Dodds. *"We are deliberately constructing a group who will be the subject of extreme poverty, and we will place them in a very real poverty trap. This is simply blatant discrimination against people born outside Australia and New Zealand"*.

The AASW supports the concerns by the Ethnic Communities across Australia, and called upon the Senate and Legal Constitution Legislation Committee to reject the proposed changes.

THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
CURTIN UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISION

Limited places are available in the Supervision Unit (Professional Supervision 501) run by the School of Social Work during 2nd Semester 1996. **Professional Supervision 501** has been operating over the past 15 years taught in a seminar format by Judy Barney. This unit forms part of the Masters Degree program but can be undertaken as a one-off unit on a subsidised fee paying basis.

COURSE CONTENT will include Models and Frameworks for Supervision Practice; Essential knowledge and skills' Modes and Methods; Issues relating to authority, gender, culture, values etc; Evaluation and Monitoring Performance; The Avoidance of Burnout.

The unit focus is on all levels of supervision - volunteers, students, and staff (including staff development programs) and is relevant for experienced, recent and potential supervisors.

Professional Supervision 501 has been accredited by the AASW

Time: Thursdays 5.00 - 7.30 pm
From 8 August 1996 - 14 November 1996
Cost: \$350.00

Application forms are available from the School of Social Work. The closing date for applications is 31 July 1996.

For more information contact the School of Social Work on 351.7030

UNAA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) will be holding a national conference in Perth on 6-7 July 1996 with the theme "Peace Through Social Development". Registration (Full: \$70, Conc: \$50) includes lunch and the conference dinner at University House on 6 July.

Contact the Office of the United Nations Association in Perth on (09) 221.9455 (Tel) or (09) 325.7061 (Fax).

WANTED - PLEASE

Your old copies of training/professional development programmes/seminars/workshops - for a display collage in association with the 50th Anniversary of the AASW.

Send to Anne Pickard, PO Box 71 Mirrabooka WA 6061.

New Members

Charlette Barry
Gerry Chandler (WA Alcohol & Drug Authority)
Tiffany Haldoupis (King Edward Memorial Hospital)
Joseph Harding
Charmaine Lobo (City of Subiaco)
Philip Mouritz (Student - Curtin University)



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

With over 40 offices located from Kununurra to Esperance and from Kalgoorlie to the Perth metropolitan area, the department offers plenty of opportunities for challenging careers. Call us now to find out more about working in:

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Continuing Professional Education - Coming Events

TUESDAY 30 JULY 1996

**Special Meeting - Find out what Continuing Professional Education will mean to you.
An important meeting not to be missed!**

Shortly, AASW members will be receiving the National Discussion Paper on Continuing Professional Education. This meeting will provide an opportunity for discussion, clarification and feedback on the issues raised in this paper. The meeting will be addressed by Dr Barbara Meddin, Convenor of the National CPE Committee.

7.30 - 9.00 pm

**Grace Vaughan House, Lecture Theatre
227 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park**

For further information contact: Mary Joyce 346.4666 (W)

THURSDAY 11 JULY 1996

Seminar - Children Who Offend Against Other Children

Presented by Dr Tony Cavanagh Johnson

7.00 pm, Seminar Room 3, 189 Royal Street, East Perth

Dr Cavanagh Johnson is a clinical psychologist from the United States with extensive experience working with children who offend against other children. She is visiting Western Australia as a guest of Family and Children's Services. This seminar will focus on working with children with sexualised behaviours who are either at risk of offending, or who have offended against other children.

Sponsored by the AASW and WA Association of Psychologists.

RSVP: Anne Pickard (w) 273.0253 or Les Harrison (w) 222.2922

Charge: \$5 towards refreshments

TUESDAY 6 AUGUST 1996

Seminar - Marketing in Managing Care

Presented by Dr Nancy Veeder

7.30 pm, 189 Royal Street, East Perth

Dr Veeder is Associate Professor, Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, USA
She has written widely on human service marketing and management.

This seminar will encourage social workers in WA to debate how they can market themselves so that they are in a better position to help vulnerable and disadvantaged people in a managed care environment. Managed care emphasises efficiency as well as effectiveness as components of case management and service contracting. Social workers need to prepare to make the most of the opportunities presented by managed care.

24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 1996

1996 50th Anniversary State Conference

**Building a Civil Society: Responsibility,
Participation and Choice**

For copies of programme and registration phone 443.2934.

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