

# President's Report

The National Association has embarked on a strategic planning process with its National Directors and Convenors of National Committees. Preparatory to this, meetings were held at each Branch and a questionnaire was sent to all members of the AASW.

It was pleasing to note that the response rate on the questionnaire was some 20% of the membership. Following the strategic planning weekend held 11-13 April it was resolved that an in depth analysis of the returned questionnaires be undertaken and forwarded to all branches.

The strategic planning process culminated in a forwarding to the Board of Directors' meeting in June, proposals in relation to the objectives and structure of the Association and the strategic focus for the future.

Once the Directors have met and the strategic planning process given a formal status, I will report further to the membership.

The Branch Conference planning is well underway and looks to yet again be a premier event for the West Australian Branch. As you now know, the Conference theme is to do with ethics and the ethics of practice. This is a timely theme and as has happened in the past two years, puts our Branch to the fore in debating issues that are current and relevant.

The Committee of Management has also resolved to keep the fee for the Conference at the same level as last year and will in future years endeavour to maintain a similar ceiling and ensure that the Conference stays within reasonable affordable bounds.

One important focus of the National Association that was debated long and hard at the strategic planning meeting, was the Association's role in policy and public comment in relation to social policy and government policy. There appeared to be a universal commitment to ensuring that the Association focus on issues relevant to our client groups and become more public in its endeavours to influence social policy.

While we have had this concern for some time, it is only in recent years that the Association has had the wherewithal to even consider taking such (for it) a radical step. I personally welcome this and will also welcome more clarity between respective responsibilities vis a vis branch and national association with

regard to the capacity to influence and comment on government and public policy.

All members need to note that CPE is a reality and will kick in on 1 July 1997. While not yet being totally mandatory, members will be expected to maintain a detailed account of their continuing professional education commitments. It is also worth noting that the Branch Conference is double points as it is an AASW programme. All AASW programmes carry double points.

*Social Work Week* will be held as a national event in September this year and it is hoped that social workers will be prepared to involve themselves in the programmes and events for *Social Work Week*. The Branch Committee of Management has discussed the possibility of focussing on a particular area of social work, as the important outcomes last year during *Social Work Week* were principally because it was a celebratory week, celebrating our 50th Anniversary. The Branch Committee of Management felt that *Social Work Week* each year needs a focus and that this year we would focus on a particular area of social work. The two areas that we have so far debated have been medical social work and/or social work with families.

I will keep you informed of this in further editions of the newsletter. Importantly the Committee felt that *Social Work Week* needed to be an opportunity to present to the public a positive image for the profession. I would be interested, as would all members of the Committee of Management, in any ideas, thoughts or commitments people would like to make for *Social Work Week* in an endeavour to increase our professional profile.

**BRIAN WOOLLER**

## Grace Vaughan Memorial Lecture Women on the Move

The lecture will be given by Professor Fay Gale,  
Vice Chancellor, University of Western Australia

13 May 1997, 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia

# Review of the BSW Curriculum at UWA

The School of Social Work at UWA is undertaking a review of the BSW curriculum. The organisational, political and economic context of social work is undergoing major changes, and it is imperative that the curriculum reflect these challenges and adequately prepare social work graduates for practice in the 21st century. Increasing demands on graduates, and limitations on resources available to the School, require that the School undergo a fundamental rethink of the philosophy, content and methods of teaching of the BSW course.

In the review we will be looking at

- the objectives of the BSW course
- student selection: how best to do it
- prerequisites: are there alternative ways to define prerequisite knowledge
- what are the core knowledge/values/skills for every social work graduate
- how do we allow for varying student interests and specialisations
- the design of the curriculum (e.g. around case studies, areas of disadvantage, traditional subject areas, methods of practice, fields of practice, etc)
- methods of teaching: especially given declining resources
- alternative modes of field education
- professional socialisation versus broad-based education
- course content
- appropriate ways to incorporate material on Aboriginal culture and working with Aboriginal People/communities
- adequate preparation for graduates to practise in a multicultural Australia

The School is anxious to involve as many interested parties as possible in these discussions: students, graduates, employers, consumers and community members. The views of recent UWA graduates are particularly welcome. Any social worker reading this is invited to participate in one or more of the following three ways:

- There will be a session at the AASW state conference in August, at which we will invite participants to share their ideas about the curriculum review.
- The School will be organising a number of focus group discussions to consider issues in the redesign of the curriculum. If you would like to join such a group, please let us know.

- The School welcomes written submissions (brief or extended) from any interested party. These should ideally be received by the end of June 1997.

If you wish to be involved in a focus group, or to make a written submission, please contact the address below for more details and a copy of the discussion paper about the review.

Professor Jim Ife, School of Social Work and Social Administration, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6907. Phone: 380 2990 Fax: 380 1070 Email: [jife@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:jife@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

## Family and Children's Services Wins Major National Award

The Australian Association of Social Workers congratulates Family and Children's Services on receiving the Prime Minister's Award for 1997 for Public Service Excellence in the category of "Process Improvement".

The award was for the department's approach to New Directions in Protecting Children and Strengthening Families in Western Australia. The new approach was based on local and international research which identified that many child abuse concerns were more likely to involve problems of social disadvantage, family dysfunction or lack of parenting skills. The new system differentiates between children who have been abused and children whose parents need help.

Other elements of the reforms included a child protection services register and a parenting campaign. The campaign provided information, advice, services and skills development to help parents bring up their children. It included parent information centres, home visiting services, a telephone help service, Best Start parenting in Aboriginal communities, a community education campaign and a mass media campaign.

The Australian Quality Council was part of the judging process and submissions were received from Commonwealth, State and Local Government organisations in all states and territories throughout Australia.

It is heartening to see the Department achieving this level of recognition and the Committee of Management and members of the West Australian Branch congratulates all those involved in the programme development that has led to this award.

# CPE and You

**“What’s the Fuss, Tell Me What’s A Happening”  
(with apologies to the play, Jesus Christ,  
Super Star)**

What is the fuss? What is happening? Well all those things you’ve been hearing are true - or at least some of them are. Yes, the AASW is putting in place a policy that will require members to engage in continuing professional education (CPE). Yes, every one will have to do it and YES, YOU WILL ENJOY IT!!

You will enjoy it because engaging in CPE allows members to demonstrate in a very concrete and practical way that they are committed to ensuring that, as social workers, we deliver the most up to date and relevant services to our clients. By keeping up with your field of practice or learning skills in new areas, you as a social worker will be able to deliver the best services possible and will be able to demonstrate that, as social workers, we subscribe to ethical and accountable practice and that we believe in the concept of life long learning.

Beginning the first of July of this year, the Association’s policy requiring members to engage in on going Continuing Professional Education (CPE) come into effect. Members will be required to accrue at least 15 CPE points during the 1997/98 membership year. Linked closely with CPE will be the creation of Boards of Practice. CPE points can be acquired in any area relevant to social work, so it applies and is important not only to those in traditional areas of social work like case practice, but also to those engaged in policy development, management and administration.

## State conference here we come

What CPE means is that members will be asked to demonstrate via a CPE Log Book, that they have done things like read articles in professional journals, attended training workshops or conferences relevant to social work practice or provided or received on going professional supervision for themselves or students. Anything that can be viewed as contributing to a member’s learning and skill and knowledge development counts towards your CPE points. Just think - you can do almost all your CPE points for 1997/98 by attending the Branch’s state conference in August of this year - so sign up now! You will receive 2 points for every hour of presentation or workshop that you attend at the Conference. Normally the points are 1 point for every 1 hour of CPE activity, but because the State Conference is an AASW sponsored activity, you receive double points!!

## Would you want your daughter to become one - an accredited social worker that is?

You will receive a CPE Log Book with membership forms this year. The log will need to be kept as you go along during the year and returned at the end of the year (June, 1998) with your membership renewal. Members who have complied with the CPE requirements will be entitled to be recognised as an “Accredited

## Request for Proposal for Employee Assistance Service to Health Department of WA and Government Health Services

It is anticipated that the Government Health Supply Council will be placing an advertisement in the Saturday 3 May 1997 edition of *The West Australian* inviting interested parties to respond to this request for the provision of Employee Assistance Services.

Please refer to the advertisement in *The West Australian* for contact details and to obtain copies of documents.

Social Worker”. Each year you will receive a certificate stating this achievement. The Association plans to undertake negotiations with employers to encourage them to give preference in recruitment, selection and promotion for those members who have achieved Accredited Social Worker status.

## Remember, you’re not in this alone

AASW at both the National and State level will actively be involved in supporting members to comply with CPE requirements. It is anticipated that Branches will continue to provide CPE activities for members as they currently do. With support from the National organisation Branches hopefully will be able to provide a wider range of activities. Encouragement and assistance will also be provided to Branches to undertake activities that will support remote members in relation to CPE. This may, for example, involve video taping CPE activities for loan or encouraging the provision of CPE activities in regional areas.

Nationally, tenders will be let to develop training packages that will be available either nationally, regionally or through distant education methodologies. The AASW is also negotiating to become a part of a national library loan system that would provide members, particularly in remote areas, with access to journal articles or the loan of video and audio materials.

## Here’s the formula

It’s simple and easy to get points. You get one point for every one hour of continuing professional education engaged in (double points for AASW sponsored activities). It is therefore very easy and inexpensive (or even at no cost at all) to engage in the required CPE activities. You even get CPE points for being part of AASW committees!!! This means that if you read an article from the Journal or a chapter in a book you get one point for each. If you attend the Branch’s Quarterly meeting you get 2 points for each hour of the presentation (sorry, no points for networking or refreshment time!!) If you are a member of a AASW sub committee like the Health sub committee or the Education Com-

mittee, you get points for that work, too. I can see it now - a waiting list to join an AASW committee!!!

At a pilot of the CPE log recently conducted at the AASW's Strategic Planning held in Canberra, most people identified that they would have easily achieved the number of necessary CPE points this past year if CPE had been required. Interestingly, most actually would have far exceeded the requirements by simply engaging in CPE activities as they routinely do!

### Did you get yours?

By now you should have received a copy of the CPE policy statement that sets out the requirements for CPE. For more information please contact me, Dr. Barbara Meddin, National Vice President for Self Regulation on (09) 222 2659 or National Office toll free on 1800 630 124.

See You CPEing Soon!!!

## CAREER MOBILITY WITH A SMILE

Wednesday, 14 May 1997 3.30 - 6.30 pm

A late afternoon Workshop presented by Margaret Stockton

This workshop is for social workers in State Government agencies, Commonwealth Government agencies, the non government sector and those entering or re-entering the workforce.

Learn the language of a changing environment as you consider:

- ✓ Reforms in the work environment and what they mean to social workers
- ✓ Finding the work environment that suits you
- ✓ Addressing complex selection criteria - knowing about effectiveness indicators
- ✓ Describing comprehensive and transferable practice skills
- ✓ Surviving outcome.

For further information and registration details contact Anne Pickard 273 0253 (W), 385 1960 (H).

Cost to AASW members - \$50, non members \$65 and unwaged \$45.

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## National Early Psychosis Project

The National Early Psychosis Project is a joint Commonwealth and State Government funded project. The project aims to work on core areas to increase the profile of early intervention in psychosis not only in mental health services, more generally, in the health professional population.

Early intervention in psychosis is receiving increased interest both locally and overseas. There is now a wealth of literature provided by international authors, McGlashen, Johannsenn, Falloon, and nationally by McGory and Jackson, for example. The aim of early intervention into psychosis is to improve case detection, prevent secondary morbidity and to maintain psychosocial functioning.

This coordinated approach of early intervention into psychosis is now being incorporated into service provision and is widely accepted in the professional field. Social workers, have an important role to play in this area of clinical practice and this is already demonstrated by the active involvement of some in this area.

Bernadette Pound, State Coordinator National Early Psychosis Project is available to advise on the availability of resources or to further discuss this developing area of intervention into psychosis. She can be contacted for further information on 222.4120.

## New Members

Lynnette Annandale (ARAFMI)  
Paul Argile (Centrecare Kalgoorlie)  
Frances Bodman  
Carolin Bowes (Family & Children's Services)  
Paddi Croome-Carroll (Student Associate)  
Ann Cutler  
Roslyn Fitzpatrick (Student Associate)  
Andrew Geddes (Student Associate)  
Janey Glauser  
Susan Hudson (Ministry of Justice)  
Vivien Lee (Student Associate)  
Bernadette Lloyd  
Robyn Martin  
Jennifer Mundy  
Barbara Murray  
Andrea Parker  
Christine Pittman (Marys Mount School)  
Stephanie Rock (Family & Children's Services)  
Michele Speed (Alma Street Centre)

**Note: This list reflects new members to the WA Branch from the beginning of this year.**