



THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

President's Report

On Thursday the 20th May at 7.00 pm the WA Branch with Jim Ife, Amanda Bolleter, Lucy Fiske and Sarah Barker, are conducting a participatory workshop on human rights and social work. All members are urged to give thought to attending this workshop.

At this moment there are human rights abuses of monumental proportions facing the world. We have the appalling "ethnic cleansing" process in Kosovo. We have the response of NATO creating more death, hardship and deprivation. We have ferment again following years of worrying foreign policy in relation to East Timor.

At home in Australia we have human rights issues in relation to Native Title and the Prison Riots here in Western Australia.

We as a profession have, as part of our central core, a responsibility to respond when we can see people's human rights and civil liberties being impacted by greed, power and misbegotten views about the value of people who are different from ourselves.

Difference is not about greater or lesser value, it is about diversity. Our efforts should be based on common causes and common good.

As a profession we need to respond, and we need to respond appropriately, with a clear vision that puts people's rights before anything else. We are fortunate that we practice social work in a democracy and are able to at least speak out. We need to use that hard fought right to speak out, to act and support those of our colleagues and people throughout the world who are less able to access their rights.

In our security and the comfort of what is a relatively peaceful place, we should extend our thoughts to people who are not only struggling for the basics of life but are struggling to be heard.

Here is a chance to come together, look at current issues and help to develop strategies that might be usefully put in place.

Over the last two or so weeks the issue of Fringe Benefits Tax has been the focus of much of my thoughts and some action. As of the 1st April 1999 the legal requirement is for all fringe benefits over \$1000 received by an employee to be allocated a value and

placed on each individual group certificate. The tax year for Fringe Benefit Tax goes from 1st April to 31st March (the normal tax year corresponds to the financial year from 1st July to 30th June). The allocated value is called the "grossed up" value and equals the assessed value of the fringe benefit multiplied by 1.9417. This grossed up value will be added to the taxable income of each tax payer in determining liability for:

- Medicare levy surcharge
- superannuation surcharge
- termination payment surcharge
- child support payment
- repayment of HECS
- deductions for personal superannuation contributions
- rebates for personal superannuation contributions, and
- rebates for contributions to a spouse's superannuation.

This is effectively a second tax as the employer pays the actual fringe benefit tax, although a reading of the Report of Business Taxation, Chapter 38, page 775 gives some cause for concern.

"38.3 Imposing tax on the employee rather than the employer would be a relatively small additional administrative step for those fringe benefits which are to be reportable on group certificates from financial year 1999/2000."

The Treasurer Mr Costello, has given some assurance that this will not happen but experiences of political decisions when they involve revenue are that such promises are somewhat fragile.

This second tax is certainly regressive and for new graduates working in an agency where they home garage, they may find a substantial disbenefit if they are also repaying HECS.

This new development is also one which does not take into account the inefficiencies that might flow on in the workplace if staff refuse to home garage. Another 'stupid' tax imposed because of loop holes that appear to have been exploited through the

An online version of this newsletter can be found at
<http://westausaasw.highway1.com.au/>

'salary package' process. The relevant legislation was introduced in 1998 with little fanfare unlike the GST.

However, like the GST it is ill thought through, patchy, repressive and likely to produce more problems for small business, small organisations and employees, for the greedy gain of politicians in their never ending quest for greater amounts of revenue.

One can only ponder about the process that includes revenue growth, capital expenditure, government cutbacks, privatisation, outsourcing and the sale of public assets all occurring at the same time.

The history of taxation has been filled with the strange and wondrous ways of revenue gathering, poll taxes, scutage, salt taxes, Danegeld, tollage, tributes and even blackmail. The fringe benefit double tax may be added to the list.

The Branch has responded to the Report of Business Taxation which is currently under examination. You are all urged to raise this issue with your local federal member of parliament.

BRIAN WOOLLER

Private Counselling Service

*Helen Heap and Ruth Gilovitz
Private Practitioners*

We offer:

- counselling and psychotherapy
- couple therapy
- family therapy
- child and adolescent therapy
- group therapy
- stress management
- professional supervision.

Helen and Ruth are experienced clinical social workers, committed to professional, caring and confidential service to their clients.

For appointments or further information please call 9228 0399. Address: 2 Chelmsford Road, Mt Lawley, 6050

We welcome your referrals

STATE CONFERENCE 16-18 AUGUST

It's not too late to:

- ◆ develop a poster presentation
- ◆ organise and agency display
- ◆ arrange to put a brochure in the conference satchel
- ◆ write the conference dates in your diary

For more information call:

- ◆ Rosina Pruiti Conference Convenor 9344 9666
- ◆ Marian Maughan Project Officer 9330 2585

The WA Branch wishes to acknowledge and thank Family and Children's Services and Centrelink for their support of the State Conference.



WOMEN'S HEALTHWORKS HEALTH

EDUCATION AND RESOURCE CENTRE INC

The Whitfords Women's Health Centre has recently changed its name to Women's Healthworks and has also moved location. The Centre is now housed in Suite 6, Joondalup Lotteries House, 70 Davidson Terrace, Joondalup WA 6027.

The Centre provides a range of services including medical, nursing and counselling services as well as information and resources, library, alternative health services and courses and workshops.

For further information you can contact the Coordinator Nicole Roocke on 9300 1566 or fax 9300 1699.

School Social Worker Part-time Locum Position (Commencing start of Term 3)

St Luke's Catholic Primary School Woodvale, seeks the services of a locum social worker to assist staff and families in the education and pastoral care of students. The position is 0.4 for 12 months.

Duties include service to students, parents, staff, and the school community. Casework and groupwork skills, a good understanding of parenting issues and work with families, are required. Experience in schools is desirable.

A minimum of two years graduate experience of social work, preferably in a child and family agency, and eligibility for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers are essential. Applicants must be supportive of the Catholic Ethos.

A letter of application, a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, two of whom are professional should be forwarded by Wednesday 19th May 1999 to the Principal, Sr. Mary O'Connor, 17 Duffy Terrace, Woodvale.

For inquiries about the position ring the school on 9309 2949.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE

The Office of the Public Advocate is offering free professional training on the Guardianship and Administration System (including enduring powers of attorney) on Wednesday 12th May 1999 from 8.45 am to 1.00 pm at the City West Function Centre, The Cambridge Room, Plaistowe Mews, West Perth.

The seminar will explore the principles and practices of the Guardianship and Administration system within the context of the rights and needs of people with decision making disabilities. The seminar is designed for workers in the field of aged care, mental health, disability services and carer support.

For registration details please contact Margaret on (08) 9278 7300.

NEW MEMBERS

The WA Branch welcomes the following new members:

- ◆ Sonia Asensio (Princess Margaret Hospital)
- ◆ Regina Barron (UWA Student Guild)
- ◆ Peta Barry (Student Associate)
- ◆ Kelly-Anne Charles
- ◆ Amy Dunn (Student Associate)
- ◆ Adam Johnson (Student Associate)
- ◆ Beatrice MacFarlane
- ◆ Clare Murphy
- ◆ Gesinia Priem (Student Associate)
- ◆ Anna Simpson
- ◆ Wade Sinclair (Student Associate)
- ◆ Wayne Voak (Student Associate)
- ◆ Mary Wells (Princess Margaret Hospital)

OPPORTUNITY OPPORTUNITY CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP

TOM PRICE/PARABURDOO SOCIAL WORKERS

Hamersley Iron have offered to sponsor a social worker (preferably a member) to attend the State Conference 16th – 18th August 1999.

This sponsorship will cover airfares, accommodation and registration for the person selected. If you would like to be considered for this opportunity, please submit a brief application. Outline your service in rural areas, particularly in the Pilbara, your involvement with the local community and how this opportunity would be of benefit to you, your agency and the community.

Please specify how you would disseminate the conference information to your local area.

Please submit your application to:

The President
AASW (WA Branch)
PO Box 198, West Perth 6872 or by Fax
on (08) 94445410.

Applications close 18 May 1999

Social Work Day

Wednesday 19 May 1999

A day to celebrate. A day to remember

A day of pride, satisfaction, variety and renewing of acquaintances

MARK 19TH MAY IN YOUR DIARY AND JOIN US IN A CELEBRATION

5.30 to 8.30 pm

4th Floor Conference Room, Lotteries House, 79 Stirling Street, Perth

Refreshments will be provided.

Join us for an exciting and interesting time of singing and music by Monty Walgar and Ben Taylor

Guest Speakers

- Tony Cooke our guest speaker, will talk about how his social work training has helped him in his work in the field of industrial relations.
- Listen to Ningalee Nungala read some of Jack Davis' works.

Launch of *Incomes and Outcomes*

Joe Calleja and Jo-anne Byrne will launch the current edition of *Incomes and Outcomes*. The two Jo's initiated and produced the first edition of *Incomes and Outcomes*. This publication has proven itself as a resource tool not just for social workers, but for all who need practical information and guidance.

To celebrate the cultural diversity of the social work profession you are invited to wear your traditional national costume.

The Branch is also planning to have radio interviews and articles in the West Australian and local community papers about social work and social work practice, so be sure to look and listen on the day.

**RSVP: for catering purposes please RSVP by 14th May 1999 to
Dawn Miens 9222 2803 or Lisa Telford 9384 5586.**

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