



# THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

## President's Report

This will be my final report in the West Australian Social Worker as Branch President. The nearly six years that I have occupied this position have been enjoyable and have, for me, seen a number of important matters come to fruition. It is gratifying to see that continuing professional education is in place and that the Association will be moving down the path of developing sets of professional standards as benchmarks for practice.

This is not the place to thank the many people I have had the pleasure of working with over the last six years but I would like to at this moment offer my thanks to the Branch Newsletter Editor, Greg Swensen, on a sterling job as editor of the newsletter and as the person who conceived and brought to fruition the Branch website. It is the efforts of people like Greg to whom our profession owes a great debt.

On Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, the National Association's new Constitution came into force. This was voted in at the Special General Meeting held in Canberra that evening. A number of important matters were dealt with at the Directors' meeting and I will briefly report on those.

The Chief Executive Officer made mention in his report of the importance for the future of the Association committing itself to the development of professional standards. In his view this was of critical importance to ensure social work maintained its position as a competitive career in the human services industry. I would fully concur with these views. Now that the new Code of Ethics is about to be adopted, the new Constitution is in place, as a professional association we must add to the aforementioned sets of standards and the new eligibility document.

The Association's finances as a whole are in a healthy state. Although it is fair to say that national programs have tended to be, in real money terms, increasingly more expensive. It is important however, to recognise that Branches have a greater opportunity to generate income outside of membership fees than the national structure.

It is also gratifying to see that at long last there is recognition that continuing professional education is truly a Branch matter and something that needs to be organised and controlled and managed at that level. The future may well lead to the need for

capitation balance to be examined and at the Board meeting a suggestion was put forward (and it is a sensible one) that a flat rate across branches is probably not the best way to organise the Association's finances. National Office now undertakes certain activities for and on behalf of some branches and not others and some branches have greater capacity to generate income than others. All of the factors involved in both income generation and branch activities as well as national activities needs to be taken into account when apportioning Association resources. Resources generated at Branch level must remain with Branches to be used as the Branch sees fit. Corporately generated resources such as fees, need to be used more globally for the benefit of all.

There are two important people in the Association who are currently operating at the international level. These are Jim Ife who is the International Federation of Social Workers' Commissioner for Human Rights and Imelda Dodds, past President of the AASW who is about to be nominated for the position of President of the International Federation of Social Workers. These are important posts and bring considerable credit to the AASW. It was pleasing to see that the Board of Directors has maintained a commitment to its international activities by supporting Imelda and Jim.

There was considerable discussion over the assessment of overseas people for immigration purposes and the future of the EMOG Committee. This matter will be further investigated by the National Executive who were given the authority to negotiate the process, bearing in mind that the most important issue was the social work profession and its market position in the human service area within Australia.

An interesting matter came up in relation to the National Conference which is to be held in Brisbane in September. They have used professional conference organisers and the conference is to be held in a convention venue. It seems that there has been some mixed communication between all parties and the food and beverage component may well blow out to the tune of some \$20,000. The Chief Executive Officer will be negotiating with the

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

conference planners to ensure that the AASW, as the customer, and in this instance an innocent party, does not bear the loss due to the lack of appropriate agreements between all parties.

It was also refreshing to see that the Code of Ethics is nearing its completion and all members are urged, if they haven't already done so, to forward their comments as soon as possible. Work on the Code of Ethics was contributed to by the West Australian Branch Ethics Committee and in particular Virginia Scott. Virginia's stamp is clearly on the National Code of Ethics, a Code of Ethics in which the International Federation of Social Workers are increasingly interested because of its format and content.

The Association now employs a part time policy officer in Canberra to work in the area of social policy. This is a forward move and will enable the Association to react more quickly on issues of social policy and related matters of public importance within which our Association has an interest.

The meeting was a very productive one and one that points to a future for the profession that looks exciting and productive.

**BRIAN WOOLLER**

## OBITUARY - EDITH BRYCE

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, the funeral for Edith Bryce was conducted in Maylands. Brycie (as she was known) had come to Western Australia from England in the 1950s, initially for a working holiday of about eight weeks. It was apparently arranged for her to spend these eight weeks in the Social Work Department at Royal Perth Hospital and be accommodated in one of the small cottages fronting the hospital in Wellington Street.

Soon after arriving she badly sprained her ankle and was severely restricted in moving about. As a result of this she decided to extend her working holiday to look around some more and as a consequence her working holiday led to her taking over the role of Chief Social Worker at Royal Perth Hospital and Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital. She held this position until her early retirement from the post.

Brycie's father was an Officer in the British Army in India where she had lived as a young girl with her mother and sister. Her mother's ailing health took the family back to the United Kingdom just in time for the London Blitz of World War II. After the Second World War, Brycie trained as a social worker, although it is said that the nuns at the convent school she attended had tried to persuade her to become a teacher.

Brycie was a firm disciplinarian, who was meticulous about detail. With no family in WA, the members of the Social Work Department at RPH substituted as "her fam-



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ily". She struck up a life long friendship with Elizabeth Capill and her husband Roy. Elizabeth and Roy visited her every fortnight following her giving up her driver's license. A number of prominent social workers in Perth were supervised as students by Edith Bryce. They included the Right Reverend Barry Hickey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth and Virginia Scott, Vice President of the WA Branch of the AASW.

Brycie was a pioneering social worker in WA and throughout her life had remained committed to the professional association. At her funeral, mention was made of the fact that in her latter life she had become somewhat of a recluse and in her apartment, where the windows had been rarely opened and the blinds not often drawn, she had kept her journals and newsletters meticulously in date order.

Brycie will be remembered by us as a committed and powerful advocate of our profession. It was sad that she had made a decision to lead her final years as a solitary recluse. A quote that epitomised Brycie according to her friend and colleague Elizabeth Capill was "Some people ask the reason why? Some people ask the reason why not?"

It is with respect and honour that we commemorate the passing of Edith Bryce on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1999.

(Thank you to Elizabeth Capill for providing much of the information recorded in this obituary)

## Dina Lewis, BSW, MA (Psych)

Diana has resumed private practice as a marital and family therapist at the

**Shenton Park Medical Practice**  
**98 Onslow Road, Shenton Park 6008**  
**Tel: (08) 9381 4547 (office hours)**

She has specialised in working with families for 15 years and is both a *Clinical Member* and *Approved Supervisor* of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

In addition to seeing clients, Dina provides supervision/consultation for therapists working with individuals, couples and families and runs six week family-of-origin groups for both couples and individuals.

For appointments or further information, please phone (08) 9382 4772



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## CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

### Responding to the Legal Needs of Women AASW (WA Branch) Seminar

Cecily Montgomery – Women's Legal Service  
Wednesday 21 July 1999, 2-5 pm  
☎ 9443 2934, Fax: 9444 5410  
Email: [aaswwa@aasw.asn.au](mailto:aaswwa@aasw.asn.au)

### Whose Dreams? Whose Realities? The Mental Health Services Conference

22-24 September 1999  
Melbourne Convention Centre  
Contact: Conference Secretary, PO Box 192, Balmain 2041  
☎ 02 9926 6057, Fax: 02 9926 7078  
Email: [enquiries@themhs.org](mailto:enquiries@themhs.org)

### AASW, IFSW, APASWE, AASWWE Joint Conference

#### Promoting Inclusion – Redressing Exclusion: The Social Work Challenge

26-29 September 1999, Brisbane  
☎ 07 3844 1138, Fax: 07 3844 0909  
Email: [social99@icms.com.au](mailto:social99@icms.com.au)

### Australasian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

27-29 October 1999  
Perth Concert Hall and Duxton Hotel  
Contact: 7<sup>th</sup> Aust. Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect  
C/- Conference Secretariat, ☎ 08 9332 2900, Fax: 08 9332 2911  
Email: [promaco@promaco.com.au](mailto:promaco@promaco.com.au)

### Share the Care Carers 2000 Conference

29-31 March 2000, Brisbane  
Contact: Conference Solutions  
PO Box 238, Deakin West, ACT 2600  
☎ 02 6285 3000, Fax: 02 6285 3001

### Canadian Association of Social Workers World Conference

#### Promoting Equitable Societies in the Global Economy: Social Work in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

29 July – 2 August 2000, Montreal, Canada  
Contact: Canadian Association of Social Workers, ☎ (1) 613 729  
6668, Fax: (1) 613 729 9608. Email: [casw@casw-acts.ca](mailto:casw@casw-acts.ca)

## NEW MEMBERS

The WA Branch welcomes the following new members:

- Colleen Carlon (Student Associate)
- Cheryl Donald (Royal Perth Hospital)
- Mary Duckett
- Alison Fisher (Family & Children's Services)
- Krystal Holmes (Student Associate)
- Carlie Johnson (Student Associate)
- Neal Osborne (Family & Children's Services)
- Kathryn Quartermaine (Student Associate)
- Meisha Rowe (Student Associate)
- Deanna Spackman (Student Associate)
- Craig Thompson (Student Associate)
- Adrian Tyler (Student Associate)
- Robyn Wilson (South West Regional College of TAFE)

## RECENT GRADUATES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS SUBCOMMITTEE

The next meeting of the recent Graduates and Associate Members Subcommittee will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm. The venue is the Mends Street Café, Mends Street, South Perth. New members are welcome. For further information contact the Convenor Dave Jones on 9439 5177 (w) or by email: ruahkwin@upnaway.com

The WA Branch wishes to  
acknowledge and thank  
**Mercy Community Services**  
for their support of the  
State Conference as a  
General Sponsor

## JOB VACANCY

### Social Worker (0.3 FTE)

Christ the King Primary School, Beaconsfield, seeks the services of a social worker, for one and a half days per week, to assist staff and families in the education and pastoral care of students.

Duties include service to students, parents, staff and 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 is 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 Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> August 1999 to:

The Principal  
Mrs Patricia A. Brown  
Christ the King Primary School  
PO Box 213, South Fremantle WA 6162  
Ph: (08) 9331 6000, Fax: (08) 9331 6111

## STATE CONFERENCE UPDATE

Mr Chris Sidoti will be speaking at the Conference Dinner. Chris is the Commissioner for Human Rights and he is sure to address important issues.

Can you help prepare the conference satchels on Saturday morning the 7<sup>th</sup> August? If you can assist for two to three hours please call Marian Maughan on 9330 2585 for further details.

There are some vacancies in most sessions – get your registration in soon!

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