



THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

President's Report

One cannot reflect about the events of the last couple of weeks without immediately thinking about the Howard Government's stance regarding the Stolen Generation. It was with great disappointment and apal that I read Senator Herron's statement that "only" 10% of Aboriginal children had been removed from their families and thus 10% did not, in his opinion, constitute a "stolen generation"!

I can only be amazed that anyone, especially the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, could be so insensitive and disrespectful to minimise what happened to Aboriginal children and their families in such an offensive and demeaning way. Regardless of whether the actions of the past involved 10%, 46%, 75%, or whatever number of Aboriginal children and their families, to suggest that it was anything other than what it was - a holocaust of unmeasurable proportions and the worst of times in Aboriginal and Australian history - clearly indicates how out of touch with reality both Senator Herron and the Howard Government is.

John Howard's saying "sorry" about the impact of that statement in no way begins to redress the hurt and the harm caused by Senator Herron's statement nor the grief, pain and destruction that the removal of Aboriginal children from their families has caused. Until the Howard Government is prepared to say "Sorry", there can be no reconciliation and no justice for Aboriginal children and their families. While I note that the AASW was among the first to say Sorry, I am truly disappointed that our national leaders cannot follow suit!

On a more positive note, I draw your attention to several very important enclosures in this month's newsletter. First of all you will find the program for this

year's State Conference. I am sure you will agree with me that the program provides an exciting and important range of speakers, papers, presentations and workshops. Of special note this year is the segment of the conference that will be held in Bunbury.

For the first time ever, the Branch is hosting part of the conference in a rural area. It is part of the Branch's commitment to assist rural and remote social workers in accessing professional development activities. Be sure and register now so not to miss out on getting into the sessions of your choice! I also thank our two principal sponsors, *Family and Children Services* and *Centrelink* for once again providing their valuable support to the Conference.

You will also find a flier for an important CPE activity enclosed *Courting the Family*. These two half day forums will be held on Wednesday 31 May and Thursday 8 June and will be an important event for all social work professionals who work with children and families. More and more the Family Court is playing a critical role in the care and protection of children and the resolution of family issues. Again, I urge you to register now so you won't miss this important forum.

There are a couple of other important initiatives I wish to draw to your attention. First of all, thank you for the nominations that have been made for this year's Social Work Awards for Excellence. They reflect a wide range of social work expertise and professional-

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

ism on behalf of our colleagues. Please join us on the 17th of May to learn who this year's recipients are.

Also, May 17th is National Social Work Day. Now is the time to ensure that you and your agency commemorates this day. The Branch has sent letters to key agencies where social workers are employed asking them to sponsor an activity on the day to recognise the contribution social work and social workers make to the important work of their agency.

Several agencies have planned morning teas and other activities. Be sure and let us know what is happening in your agency!

Finally, many of you may be aware that I have recently had surgery. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Branch, both for the lovely flowers you sent me and for all your cards, visits and warm wishes. I am very touched and very appreciative.

BARBARA MEDDIN

LETTERS

Dr Barbara Meddin
Branch President

Dear Dr Meddin

Thank you for the response to the Discussion Paper, Health and Quality of Life for Older West Australians.

The comments provided by your Association's Health Subcommittee will be considered in the proposed planning for a comprehensive and integrated range of services to meet the health and community support needs of older Western Australians.

Once the mechanisms and/or structures for initiating and implementing the planning processes have been determined, I believe it will be more than likely that contact will be made with your association as well as other professional bodies to ascertain whether there is interest on their part in being involved in the planning process.

Yours sincerely

Deborah Hegarty
Director, Aged and Continuing Care Branch
Health Department of WA
16 April 2000

WHAT PLANS ARE YOU MAKING FOR NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK DAY?

Wednesday 17 May 2000

The theme for National Social Work Day is "Social Workers Make a Difference"

What can you do to celebrate and acknowledge the interests and achievements of social work in your workplace?

- Stage a display.
- Organise a seminar or presentation for other workers.
- Host a special morning tea or lunch.
- Arrange an article for your agency newsletter.
- Send a story about how you celebrated Social Work Day to be included in the next newsletter.

The WA Branch will be receiving posters for National Social Work Day if you would like some to display in your agency please contact Liz Retamal on 9443 2934 during business hours.

State Conference

Members will find enclosed with this newsletter a copy of the State Conference Program for 2000.

If you receive any extra copies of the program at work please pass it on to colleagues who may be interested in attending.

CPE EVENTS

Assessment and Treatment of Traumatized Children

AASW (WA Branch) Seminar

24 July 2000, 8.45 am – 4.30 pm

Presenter: Suzanne Jenkins

Contact: Liz Retamal, Ph: (02) 9420 7240, Fax (08) 9444 5410. Email: aaswwa@asw.asn.au

19th State Conference - AASW (WA Branch) Accounting for Social Work Practice: Meeting the Challenge of Social Reconstruction

Perth/Bunbury

5-9 September 2000

Contact: Marian Maughan, Conference Project Officer

Ph: (08) 9330 2585 Fax: (08) 9317 3891

Email: aaswwa@asw.asn.au

Adoption in the New Millennium "Linking Past, Present and Future"

Western Australian Adoption Conference 2000

19-21 May

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Centre, Perth

Contact: Adoptions International

Ph: 9328 2555, Fax: 9328 2544

Email: aiwa@multiline.com.au

The Heart of Practice

Second National Psychotherapy in Australia Conference

7-9 July 2000

Dallas Brooks Centre, Melbourne

Contact: Psychotherapy in Australia

Phone: (03) 9419 2626

Website: www.psychotherapy.com.au

Stress, Trauma and Coping in Emergency Services and Allied Professions Critical Incident Stress Management Foundation of Australian Inc Conference

11-13 August 2000

Hilton on the Park, Melbourne

Contact: CISMFA, PO Box 173, North Carlton, Victoria 3054

Phone/fax: (03) 9347 9313

Creativity and Development: Services for the Future

The Mental Health Services (TheMHS) 10th Annual Conference

29-31 August 2000

Adelaide Convention Centre

Contact: PO Box 192, Balmain NSW 2041

Ph: (02) 9926 6057, Fax: (02) 9926 7078

Email: enquiries@themhs.org

Canadian Association of Social Workers World Conference

Promoting Equitable Societies in the Global Economy: Social Work in the 21st Century

29 July – 2 August 2000

Montreal, Canada

Contact: CASW, Ph: (1) 613 729 6668, Fax: (1) 613 729

9608. Email: casw@casw-acts.ca

National Respite Conference – Respite: Choosing with Confidence

11-13 October 2000

Sheraton Perth Hotel

Contact: Ph: (08) 9332 2900, Fax: (08) 9332 2911

Email: promaco@promaco.com.au

4th National Allied Health Conference

14-16 March 2001

Perth, Western Australia

Contact: Moira Butler, Admin Assistant, Conference Secretariat. Fax: (08) 9381 1024

**Would You Like
to Attend the
State Conference
Free?**

If you would like to attend this year's State Conference and you are a remote practitioner, the AASW (WA Branch) might have an offer you can't refuse.

As part of its support to remote practitioners to help them comply with the Association's CPE requirements, the Branch will support a member of the AASW who is a remote practitioner to attend this year's State Conference.

The conference will be held in Perth 5-7 September 2000 and Bunbury 8-9 September 2000. As you would have seen in the program, this year's conference promises to be a very important and worthwhile event.

In order to be considered, an applicant must be:

- a member of the WA Branch of the AASW;
- work in a remote setting; and
- would otherwise be unable to attend the conference.

Applicants who wish to be considered should provide a short submission to the selection committee of no longer than 2 pages outlining how attendance at the conference would benefit themselves, their clients and their agency.

It should also include a strategy of how they would they would disseminate the information acquired at the conference to their region or community when they return from the conference.

The person selected will have their conference registration paid including the conference dinner and receive a return economy class airfare to Perth. The person will be billeted with an AASW member in Perth during their stay. Transport to and from the airport and assistance to get to the conference venue will be provided.

Submissions should be sent to:

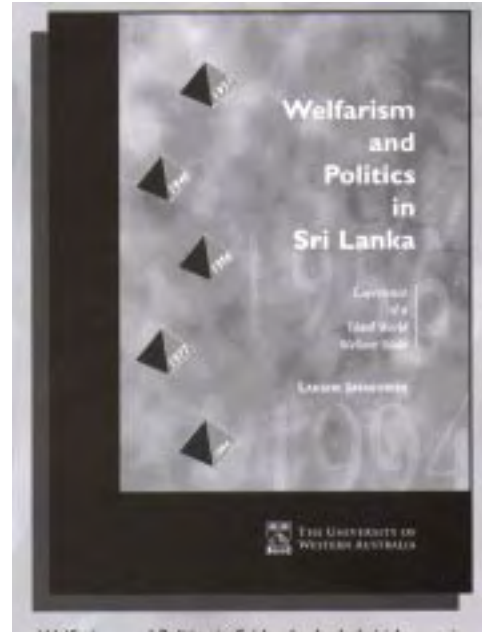
**Executive Officer
AASW (WA Branch)
PO Box 198 West Perth 6872
or Fax to (08) 9444 5410
no later than Friday, 7th July 2000**

The State Conference, as an AASW sponsored activity, accrues double CPE points.



The set-back to economic growth and the social hardships experienced by some East Asian countries following the Asian currency crisis has generated considerable interest among international agencies, such as the World Bank, and development theorists on the linkage between economic and social politics.

Against this background the essays in this volume pose the question: *"Has the Sri Lankan development experience, in pursuing equity and justice within a framework of social democracy any relevance for other developing nations?"*



Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya AM is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow, School of Social Work and Social Policy, University of Western Australia. He is a graduate of the University of Sydney, with a doctorate from the London School of Economic and Political Science (LSE).

He held the Foundation Chair in the Department of Sociology and Social Welfare and also Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Ceylon, Colombo, Sri Lanka. In Australia he was appointed as Foundation Professor of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Western Australia in 1972.

This book (\$19.95 plus \$3.00 AUD postage) may be ordered from the Uni Co-op Bookshop, University of Western Australia. Tel 9380 2069.

The Overview edition of *The West Australian Social Worker* is published bi monthly by the WA Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers (ACN 008 576 010). Services, products, opinions and enclosures are not considered as necessarily endorsed by the AASW nor represent its policy. Contributions are accepted on the understanding they may be subject to editorial revision.