



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Resourcing Social Services

Any one who reads the newspaper, is a member of the AASW or a union or who works in the human service industry would be only too acutely aware of the current situation in terms of the funding and resourcing of human services. For the last decade there has been little or no increase in the resources allocated by governments to the delivery of social services.

The population of Western Australia has grown significantly in the last ten years. As we all know, the literature is quite clear that the demand for social services increases with increase in citizenry. That increase in population alone should have accounted for a concomitant increase in resources to agencies who deliver social services. As members know, this certainly has not been the case. Perhaps we have witnessed some marginal gain in some areas, but these do not appear to have resulted in an adequate increase in workers on the ground or to the funding of services.

However, population increase is only part of the story. We all know that overlaid with the population increase has been an increase in substance use and mental health problems. This has resulted in an increased complexity of service demand. For many individuals and families the problems they experience are now more entrenched and more complex. Quick fix is no longer the answer. Only adequately resourced services and adequately skilled service delivers can hope to effectively intervene.

Unfortunately at the same time that agencies have been grappling with increased demand for more complex service needs, service delivery agencies have by necessity been forced to raise their thresholds for service delivery and in an attempt perhaps to meet other competing priorities, have in many cases deprofessionalised their service delivery.

Thus, not only have we experienced an increase in population in our state without adequate additional resourcing, but we are struggling to cope with too few staff, some of whom may not always be equipped to meet the service delivery demands.

Agencies tell us caseloads aren't all that high. That unfortunately is a fallacious argument. Agencies must decide whether they want workers to "maintain" the status quo with the individuals and families and communities they deal with as they probably can at current case load sizes or whether they want staff to "work" and intervene with individuals and families and communities to really make a difference, to help individuals, families and communities to develop their capacities and to address the issues that have brought them in touch with social welfare agencies in the first place. I have no doubt that the people of Western Australia would want the latter, not the former.

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

To do so social workers must have reasonable case loads, case loads determined not only on numbers but based on the complexity of the work involved if outcomes are to be achieved. In order to support families to address substance use problems, child neglect, children and adults with disabilities or with mental illnesses there needs to be adequate dollars to meet the need - to fund respite, to supervise unsafe situations, to mentor young people, to help families learn to care for their children, to empower communities ... and the list goes on.

Agencies must have the resources, both human and financial to deliver services to make a difference for the individual, families and communities of Western Australia. Social services in WA need the financial base to provide services and they need staff with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to work with children, families and communities.

As you will see by the correspondence included with this newsletter, the AASW/WA has been very active in bringing to the attention of Government the issues raised from a range of sectors such as WACOSS, the CSPU/CSA and our own members concerning the resourcing of social services. I would urge you to make your voice known either through your local member, to the various Ministers or to the Premier himself. Let them know how you feel about the urgent need to adequately resource social services in Western Australia.

National Social Work Day

National Social Work Day is on Wednesday, May 8th. It's not too late to organise something in your work place to affirm the valuable contribution we as social workers make to our work

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Presidents's report	1
Contact details & office bearers (WA Branch).....	2
Letters	3
CPE events.....	6
New members	6
Reports	
Social policy activities.....	7
What's happening at the University of WA.....	7
Notices	
Social Work Day	3
Edith Cowan WA Women's Fellowship 2002	8

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN SOCIAL WORKER

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Continued from page 1 place and to the delivery of social services. Why not organise a lunch or a morning tea to recognise our contributions? How about a banner or sign applauding social work practice? The options are unlimited.

Also be sure and celebrate National Social Work Day with the Branch. Join us at 7:00 pm at the Macdonald Lecture Theatre, PMH on May 8th to hear Associate Professor Tony Cooke from the Curtin School of Social Work and formerly the Secretary of the Trades and Labour Council (Unions WA) deliver what I hope will be the first of the Branch's annual Social Work Day Lecture! See you there.

Branch Happenings

Congratulations to Chris Coopes, Vice President for Social Policy and Sharlene Nipperess, member from Bunbury. They've both been appointed to the National Social Policy Committee. It's really great to have two people from the WA Branch recognised for their contribution to social policy development of the Association.

Congratulations, too, to Anthony Collier of the Mental Health Subcommittee. Anthony has been appointed as the social work representative to the Department of Health's review of mental health services. Anthony will be undertaking consultation within Branch membership in order to inform his input into the Review. Anthony, the Branch is very pleased to have supported your nomination to the Review and know you will make a vital contribution to it.

AGM and COM Elections

The Branch AGM will be held, as usual, prior to the dinner at this year's State Conference. So mark the date, Tuesday October 1st in your diary now.

The reason I am bringing it to your attention now is to let you know that there will be several vacancies coming up on the Committee of Management, as COM members' terms expires. It's not too soon to be thinking if you would like to contribute to the Branch by standing for the COM. If you're interested, give me a ring and let's talk about the various positions that you might be interested in. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

SOCIAL WORK DAY

8 MAY 2002

CELEBRATING OUR PROFESSION

- Contact your nearest Centrelink colleague and see the national broadcast on topics of interest to social workers. The broadcast will include a panel discussion with Jo Gaha (National President), Imelda Dodds (past WA Branch President) and now President of the International Federation of Social Workers, Peter Camilleri and Desley Hargreaves. Broadcast 10-30 - 11.30 am WA time.
- Colourful Social Work Day posters and bumper stickers from the Executive Officer (Tel 9332 0019).
- Public lecture by Associate Professor Tony Cooke at Macdonald Lecture Theatre, Princess Margaret Hospital, at 7 pm on 8 May. Refreshments provided. Registration fee.

Happy Social Work Day

State Conference

Of course it also goes without saying that you need to mark 30 September - 2 October in your diary too, as these are the dates for this year's State Conference. This will be held jointly with the National Conference of the Australian Association of Social Work and Welfare Educators (AASWWE). The theme, *Working across borders, stretch your mind: strengthen your practice: the nexus between practice and education*, should be an excellent CPE opportunity for members and other professionals in our community. I have had a quick preview of the submissions concerning papers and workshops offered for presentation at this year's conference and they are just excellent. I have no doubt that they will provide us with food for thought, challenge our view of social work practice and expand our learning.

Membership Fees

At the quarterly National Board teleconference in April, the Board voted to increase membership fees by 5% to cover the increase in CPI and an increase in insurance fees. An administration fee of \$45 was also approved for those who are either late in paying membership renewal or who have let their membership lapse.

National board meeting

Another issue that may seem a while away, but not really is the AASW's National Board Meeting. As you may recall, the AASW holds face to face meetings twice a year - November and June. The next Board meeting will be on 14 June in Canberra. If you have issues that you would like me to raise as the Director from Western Australia, please contact me. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

DR. BARBARA J. MEDDIN

BRANCH PRESIDENT

LETTERS

The Editor
The West Australian

Dear Editor

The West Australian Branch of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) supports the urgent need for change in the state government's budget priorities as set out by WACOSS (The West Australian 11 April 2002). The AASW (WA Branch) has recently written to Premier Gallop expressing our concerns about the need for additional funding to critical areas such as child protection and family support.

It is the people of Western Australia - children, families, communities, who are our main resources. Indeed, the children of Western Australia are our future.

Where and how will our State progress if money and resources are not adequately provided to government and community social services? This funding must be provided to enhance and support the safety and well being of the children, families, and communities of Western Australia.

The State Government needs to act now, and prioritise accordingly those services that care for abused and neglected children, support individuals with disabilities and their families, and protect those of who are victims of family violence so that West Australians can feel with pride a sense of achievement for humanity and community building.

Not to do so condemns future generations to major social problems and crises within our communities. Western Australia stands at the crossroads – which path will our Government take?

Yours sincerely

Dr Barbara Meddin MAASW, Acc.
President, WA Branch
11 April 2002

Hon. Dr GI Gallop
Premier; Minister for Public Sector
Management; Federal Affairs, Science,
Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

Dear Premier

Further to our correspondence sent to you in February of this year, the Australian Association of Social Workers/WA Branch supports the need to increase funding to key social service areas as raised by WACOSS in *The West Australian* (11 April 2002).

It is critical that adequate funding be provided for the delivery of social services where individuals and families are directly affected. By doing so, there is no doubt there will be significant long-term benefits for individuals, families and the community of Western Australia.

In particular, the AASW/WA urges that the Department of Community Development (DCD) and the Disability Services Commission (DSC) receive an increase to their current funding as a matter of priority.

Recent media reports indicate that DSC is struggling to support individuals with disabilities and their families with services such as accommodation and respite.

It is also apparent from feedback from our members that DCD worker caseload ratios are under stress across the board and support services especially in relation to children in care are struggling. As reported in *The West Australian* 11 April 2002, you indicated that there has been an increase in both child maltreatment allegations and the number of children remaining in care in the last four years. No significant resources appear to have been allocated to address this. As you are no doubt aware the Gordon Inquiry is highlighting the demands in relation to protection of Aboriginal children. This too has significant resource implications.

The AASW/WA Branch urges your Government to prioritise funding to agencies providing these essential social services. The Association believes that the State Government must make these vital funding changes to ensure the people of Western Australia enjoy a healthy and progressive future.

Sincerely

Dr Barbara Meddin MAASW, Acc.
President, WA Branch
15 April 2002

Mr Barry Matthews
Commissioner of Police
Police Department

Dear Commissioner

The Australian Association of Social Workers, West Australian Branch is extremely concerned about the proposed changes to family violence services within the Police Department. As you may be aware the AASW is the professional social work body in

Australia representing 6,000 members Australia wide with nearly 900 members in Western Australia.

The report in *The West Australian* of 11 April 2002 which outlines family violence and the proposed decisions to “partly disband” the Joondalup family violence project is a serious and the AASW believes, likely detrimental consideration. The AASW understands that the Joondalup family project which involves an interagency approach to ensuring the safety of victims has been a resounding success. Indeed it has been such a success that funding to the family violence court project has also been extended.

The Association seeks assurance from you that the current decisions within the Police Department relating to these proposed changes will be revisited. In doing so, the Association would hope that decision makers will keep at the forefront of their decision making the epidemic proportions of family violence incidents occurring in our community on a daily basis.

Family and domestic violence is a monumental social crisis existing in our society. It is debilitating for all individuals involved as well as for their environment including work, school, local community and all related services including health. The cost to our society is far greater than any one perspective highlights. This is particularly so when it comes to the children who witness such violence or who may be injured as a result of family violence.

Further to the changes in the Joondalup region, it has also come to our attention that the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer at the West Metropolitan Police Office has been redeployed to other duties after being in this specialist position for sometime and establishing a working relationship with relevant domestic violence services within the region. A relationship of trust and familiarity is an essential component of any family violence service and must always be considered when providing effective service delivery to the community.

A reduction to any service provision in the family violence area will have long-term effects and may even result in an increase in permanent repercussions for both victims and perpetrators. The AASW implores you to take whatever action is needed to ensure victims, especially children, are provided with adequate and professional police services to ensure their safety.

Sincerely

Dr Barbara Meddin MAASW, Acc.
President, WA Branch
15 April, 2002

Dr Penny Flett
Chairperson WA Aged Care Advisory Council
Chief Executive Officer, Brightwater Care Group

Dear Dr Flett

Re: Selection of an aged care professional (nurse or social worker) for appointment to the WA Aged Care Advisory Council.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the President of the Australian Association of Social Workers WA Branch. The AASW nationally has more than 7,000 members. In WA the Branch is comprised of 800 professional social workers. As President of the AASW WA Branch I have been asked to express the concerns of members of the Aged Care Subcommittee about the process of selection for the above position.

Our understanding is that selection was made, at short notice, from ACAT representatives of the ACAT liaison group. Our view is that the council is charged with a very significant role in rela-

tion to aged care in WA and that the selection process should have embraced the breadth of aged care service provision in this state. We are, therefore, surprised and concerned that selection was limited to a particular group (ACAT delegates). This was not mentioned in the original flyer advertising the position.

It is our view that the criteria for participation in the ACAT liaison group would not necessarily be the same criteria as that required for appointment to the Council. Appointment to the Council for example, would require the capacity to articulate a vision for aged care, to work with a wide variety of experts in the field of aged care and to lead or undertake special projects.

In particular the selection process did not take account of the significant expertise of social workers and (no doubt nurses) who are not involved in the ACAT liaison group. The AASW for example, has an Aged Care Subcommittee with membership representative of rural and metropolitan settings. Members work in the public and private hospitals, ACATs, other health facilities and associated settings such as the Alzheimer's Association, the Guardianship and Administration Board and Advocare. The subcommittee can act as a reference group for members working on particular committees and working parties. In addition, members have professional networks of very experienced practitioners in community based and residential settings. Members also have experience working with Aboriginal people, older people with longstanding disabilities, those from non English speaking backgrounds and those with dementia.

It is worth noting that the contributions that nurses and social workers, as well as other professionals, are not interchangeable. The Association is disappointed that the different issues and contributions were not recognized and that the group doesn't have the scope for representatives from all disciplines.

In our view the selection process undertaken indicates a lack of understanding of the complexity and breadth of aged care service provision. Such a limited focus in the selection process may, in turn provide only a limited perspective. On behalf of our Association, we hope that there will be opportunities in the future for wide ranging professional consultation which ensures the interests of all parties are represented. We trust that future opportunities for professional input will utilise established professional associations such as ours.

Yours faithfully

Dr Barbara J Meddin MAASW Acc
President
4 April 2002

Dr Barbara Meddin
President
AASW WA Branch

Dear Dr Meddin

Thank you for your letter of 4 April 2002 in which you commented on the membership of the WA Aged Care Advisory Council, and particularly the selection of the ACAT representative.

Members of the Council were selected to give the broadest possible representation to key aged care stakeholder groups. They include clinicians, those who can address issues facing older people in rural and remote parts of the State, consumers, health management and peak industry bodies.

The Council is charged with developing a State Aged Care Plan including an action plan for dementia care. As part of this process, the Council has developed a wide ranging consultation

strategy to provide the means for comprehensive and interactive consultation with stakeholders across all facets of the aged care sector.

Through the medium of a Working Network, the Council will take a state-wide and system-wide perspective on all issues and will be seeking input from aged care interest groups including service providers, government and non-government organisations, professional bodies, unions and individuals. The intention is that consultation will be inclusive and flexible and provide various avenues through which individual opinion and specific expertise can be taken into account in the development of the State Aged Care Plan.

I appreciate the breadth, scope and range of areas in which the members of your profession work and assure you that the AASW WA Branch will be offered the opportunity for input into the planning processes of the State Aged Care Plan in the near future.

Yours sincerely

Dr Penny Flett
Chairperson, WA Aged Care Advisory Council
16 April 2002

Mr Christopher Coopes
Vice President, Social Policy

Dear Mr Coopes

Thank you for your letter dated 15 February 2002 in which you raise a number of concerns that the Australian Association of Social Workers has with the impact of the budget allocation to the Department for Community Development.

I understand and respect your advocacy as you respond to reports from your members. The perception that the Department has been disadvantaged in the budget process is one that I have noted in other forums and I am pleased to be able to reassure you that in 2001 - 2002 there was in fact an increase on the previous financial year budget.

The budget papers show that the Department for Community Development has been allocated \$177.5 million in the 2001-2002 financial year, of which \$172.7 is for recurrent expenditure and \$4.8 is for capital purposes. This represents an increase of almost \$10 million over 2000-2001 funding levels.

The budget allocation to the Department's Service Delivery Directorate has increased from \$78.5 million in 2000-2001 to \$81.6 million (plus new program monies that have been provided for new initiatives such as election commitments) in 2001-2002. A further \$58 million will be expended on the non government sector in the 2001-2002 financial year.

However, I am aware that the strategies developed within the Department to manage the budget have required adjustments in a number of areas and this is normal practice in meeting priorities. It is my understanding that managers within the Department are aware of the implications of adjustments that they have made and have developed strategies to minimise disruption to services whilst assuring that risks to children are attended to and families are supported.

With respect to particular issues that you have identified:

1) Contact Services

Contact between children and their families is a case planning issue generally directed through the Case Conference process. I believe that every endeavour is made to meet the requirements set out in the case plan. However there may be times when the cost of

contact arrangements, where the parties are geographically widely separated, have had to be taken into consideration. I believe there have been cases where this is unavoidable.

2) Preventative Services

The government is committed to the provision of early intervention and prevention services. I recently announced a new men's resource service. Other initiatives under the government's \$10M Family Strengths Initiative are being developed and will be announced shortly. In developing Family Strengths existing services will be considered with new initiatives to ensure achievement of objectives.

The programs provided through the Parent Help Centre have been particularly beneficial to service delivery in developing preventative services, as such issues relating to location and models of service will be monitored carefully for the most efficient use of funding to meet the governments objectives for families. I have asked the department to keep me briefed on these issues.

3) Caseloads

I am informed that there has been a small increase in case sizes in some areas over the past 3 months and once again have asked the Department to keep me briefed on this trend and any implications for practice.

The issues you have raised with respect to services to clients are important and I will raise them with the A/Director General of the Department.

Thank you again for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Sheila McHale MLA
Minister for Community Development,
Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth
2 April 2002

NEW MEMBERS

The WA Branch welcomes the following new members

Anne Basili	Student
Kirsten Bessell-Browne	Alma St Centre
Renee Cassidy	Student
Emma Classen	Student
Barbara Cohen	Student
Ross Colliver	Consultancy
Shamila Dharampala	New graduate
Alexandra Heerey	New graduate
Rena Hirshowitz	
Joanne Kitchen	Nintirri Inc
Casey Mansbridge	Student
Karen Morley	Student
Gloria Ross	St Mary's AGS
Liana Sanzone	Student
Mia Selley	Student
Laura Sime	Student
Brad Trudgian	Department of Justice
Vernisha Wheatle	
Miranda Wiltshire	Student

CPE EVENTS

8 May

Social Work Day public lecture
Social work and activism
Assoc Professor Tony Cooke
Macdonald Lecture Theatre, Princess Margaret Hospital
Contact: Executive Officer 9332 0019

4 June

Social Work Awards for Excellence
St John of God Conference Centre, Subiaco
Contact: Executive Officer 9332 0019

14-15 June

Agency Expo: Promoting rural health through innovations in allied health service delivery and organisation and networking, support and education
1st West Australian Rural & Remote Allied Health Forum
Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle.
Contact: Suzanne Spitz, Country Services, Department of Health.
Email: Suzanne.Spitz@health.wa.gov.au

29 September - 2 October 2002

AASWWE & AASW WA Joint conference
Working across borders. Stretch your mind: Strengthen your practice: The nexus between practice and education
AASW WA project Officer: Cindy Gorton
Email: Jonandcindy@bigpond.com; Tel 9420 7240
AASWWE coordinator Fran Crawford
Email: f.crawford@curtin.edu.au

2-6 October 2004

IFSW, IASSW, AASW, AASWWE Conference
Global Social Work 2004. Reclaiming civil society
Adelaide

Have You Just Graduated?

Don't forget to send a copy of your degree to the AASW National Office, PO Box 4956, Kingston, ACT 2604.

Upon graduation student associate members are eligible to gain full member status of the AASW for the rest of the financial year at no extra cost. To ensure this occurs you need to send a copy of your degree to the National Office.

Remember, next financial year you do not pay the full member fee but the reduced fee in recognition that most new graduates are establishing themselves and often have to pay off fees for their studies. We wish you well in your endeavours.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AASW (WA BRANCH)

What the Branch Has Been Doing On Your Behalf In Social Policy

The Gordon Inquiry and the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission inquiry into children in detention have dominated this month. I have continued linking up with key members who can provide some comments toward each submission. If any member would like the terms of reference for either of the submissions, please feel free to email me and I can provide you with the information.

As a result of meeting with Sarah Hordern, my counterpart in Canberra, it has been decided that I develop a paper addressing the issue of a "social policy plan" for WA. When completed this will be submitted to the Branch Committee of Management for discussion and appropriate action.

I have now been in this position for approximately six months and have found that the natural progression is striking a balance between reactive and proactive responses. To ensure that the plan is going to be both flexible and well-grounded, I am going back to basics with exploring some of the theoretical foundations to social policy in Australia. Most importantly, I welcome feedback on what members think the AASW/WA plan should consider as priorities areas to address over the next six months.

The WA Child Protection Council is commissioning an independent review of the effectiveness of mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse cases in the states and countries that have relevant legislation. The final report aims to be completed by June 30th and is to include current mechanisms of reporting in WA and provide a comparison between states/countries where reporting is mandatory and where it is voluntary. Again the AASW/WA welcomes all member comments.

Letters written this month include-

Premier Gallop, The West Australian and Minister Sheila McHale - Budget priorities and the need to consider community and social services.

Minister Michelle Roberts and Commissioner Matthews - Police cuts to the Joondalup family violence unit.

Finally, if any members are interested the Federal Attorney General's Department is undertaking consultations on the development of an Age Discrimination Bill being drafted for consideration by the Federal Government.

It is envisaged that the draft legislation will recognise the need for Australians of all ages to be able to participate fully in our society and place importance on economic and social contribution that Australians of all ages can make to the community in a range of activities. Information on the development of this legislation will be posted on the Attorney-General web-site <http://www.ag.gov.au/Department.html>.

I am contactable by email: blitz-cokis@inet.net.au or through the Branch office (9420 7240).

KATHY BLITZ-COKIS
SOCIAL POLICY OFFICER
AASW (WA BRANCH)

What's Happening At the University of WA

The first thing to report is that we have moved in recent years from being known as the School of Social Work and Social Policy to the Department of Social Work and Social Policy and are currently getting used to being a Discipline within the School of Social and Cultural Studies. This reflects the intention of the recent university restructure to encourage inter disciplinary, inter school and inter faculty research and teaching networks. I was supportive of this initiative in my responses to consultation papers last year.

We were pleased to work in partnership with the AASW Branch Education Committee and colleagues from Curtin University of Technology and Edith Cowan University to present a Research Symposium at Currie Hall in February, 2001. The intention was to encourage colleagues in agencies to submit research proposals for applications to a range of funding sources. The result has been over \$120,000 of funding for Anglicare, Familyfocus and Ngala in four research partnerships with the Discipline.

Field supervisors honour board

We have continued to recognise field supervisors who have provided at least seven placements to UWA students. At a gathering on Monday 1 October at University House, Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya recognised the significant contribution of the following social workers whose names are now on the Honour Board.

David Buchanan, Lucy Davies, Jo Delaney, Marcia Foley, Neil Fowler, Cindy Gorton, Celine Harrison, Bill Herd, Robyn Kerr, Sue Lodge-Calvert, Francis Lynch, Warren Smailes

The Discipline was recently visited by the accreditation panel of the professional association with responsibility for reading course documentation and consulting with teaching staff, students, employers and supervisors. The Panel's recommendation is that the BSW program at UWA should be accredited for a further period of five years. We are waiting for confirmation of the decision by the National Executive of the AASW.

We are hoping to design and offer a 'Winter School' for Social Workers and other professional colleagues in June and July, 2002. I am in discussions with the AASW (WA Branch) and University Extension and we hope to have a program outline in the next few weeks.

Finally, we were successful in recruiting and allocating supervisors for the 56 fourth year placement which started on 18 February and will run for 16 weeks until 7 June. The third year placement will run for 12 weeks from 17 June to 6 September. Brenda Clare is the lecturer in charge of fieldwork for 2002.

Colleagues in the discipline

We were delighted to welcome Brenda Clare and Dr Paul Murphy when they took up their half-time appointments in June; Dr Sue Young joined us in February, 2002. Following Jim Iffe's return to Curtin University last March, Violet Bacon's period of study leave and Rae Lindsay's move to a 0.6 position, we were particularly stretched throughout the recent very busy year!! Maria Harries has moved to a 0.8 position for 2002. We wait with interest to know the budget figures for the current academic year and the decision about a further appointment.

We have also been very fortunate to have a group of supportive and productive Honorary Research colleagues. Emeritus Profes-

sor Jayasuriya continues to be a stimulating and supportive guide – and was centrally involved in mounting the very successful Centenary of Federation Symposium, ‘Constituting a ‘People’: The Legacy of White Australia’ in mid-December.

Also, Adjunct Professor Denis Ladbrook and Ms Heather Deighen are working on their community development project in South Africa and looking to develop similar projects inside and outside of Western Australia.

Students in the discipline

Social Work is a local, a national and an international activity. I am delighted to report that a number of BSW students have been recognised in a number of important and challenging ventures throughout the past academic year.

Congratulations are due to Dr Mark Sachman on achieving his doctorate with distinction for his well-received study, “A critical examination of the nosological status of borderline personality disorders with particular reference to the aetiological significance of childhood trauma”.

Congratulations to a number of our recent graduates for a variety of reasons. First of all, to Sue Bailey who was awarded the Margaret Stockbridge Memorial Prize, the Jayasuriya Prize and the Convocation Prize. Sue was also awarded an Australian Postgraduate Scholarship to undertake her PhD studies in 2002.

Congratulations also to Joanne Watson who was awarded the Walter Tauss Memorial Prize in Social Work Practice and to Jennifer Noonan who was awarded the Walter Tauss Memorial Prize in Indigenous Studies.

Congratulations to Nicola Farray and to Pip White on their award of Australian Postgraduate Scholarships to undertake their PhD studies with us in 2002. Congratulations to Eve Stubber and to Joanne Watson who achieved First Class Honours results.

Congratulations to Shelley Skinner for her work as liaison officer with Beyond for Kids – a self-funded voluntary organisation working with children of parents with a mental illness; the organisation works to encourage peer group support and understanding among the children and families through various social and recreational activities.

Finally, in this review of the achievements of our recent graduates, congratulations to Nancy Carbone who participated in the Community Drug Summit as a community delegate. Nancy felt that her participation was a very productive opportunity to work to develop key recommendations for government consideration.

Congratulations to a number of fourth year students whose work was recognised last year. Firstly, Kerry Breuhwhiler received a commendation in the West Australian newspaper for her voluntary work at the June O’Connor Centre. Whilst volunteering at the Centre, Kerry successfully put forward a submission to a major Western Australian Petroleum company on behalf of the Centre leading to the provision of furniture and office equipment..

Steven Feehan received a cadetship from the Department of Employment, Work Relations and Small Business under their National Indigenous Cadetship Project. The Cadetship involved Steven undertaking paid work experience and training with a family agency in Canberra for 11 weeks over the summer break. Steven was particularly involved with the Aboriginal Parenting Skills Program and was able to concentrate on his area of interest, namely working with Aboriginal youth.

Lara Miller was awarded one of five available Rotary Study Exchange Fellowships to visit Sweden for five weeks in May, 2001. Lara visited schools and local government agencies to

EDITH COWAN WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP 2002

Applications are invited for the Edith Cowan Western Australian Women’s Fellowship 2002. Application closing date Friday 31 May 2002.

The Fellowship provides up to \$25,000 for interstate or overseas travel to enable the recipient to study or work in a field relevant to women. Applicants are particularly encouraged to submit proposals addressing the government’s policy priorities for women - the workplace, health services, family care, senior women, safety and community services, promoting opportunity and the law.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that:

- 1) they have been a permanent resident in Western Australia for at least 2 years;
- 2) they are working towards improving the well-being of women in Western Australia;
- 3) the knowledge and skills gained by interstate or overseas travel are unavailable in Western Australia; and
- 4) the work or study will benefit Western Australian women and the community in general.

The 2002 Fellowship is to be taken up during the 2002/2003 financial year. The Edith Cowan Western Australian Women’s Fellowship is not available to obtain educational qualifications.

Further information, guidelines and application forms are available from:

Edith Cowan Western Australian Women’s Fellowship
Department for Community Development, Women’s Policy
Level 1, Hartley Poynton Building, 141 St George’s Tce,
Perth, WA 6000

Telephone 9264 1900, Freecall 1800 199 174, Facsimile 9264 1925. Email: wpo@fcs.wa.gov.au. Website: <http://www.wa.gov.au/wpdo>.

speak with police, drug and alcohol workers and youth workers and was able to explore another welfare system to develop a more global perspective of social work.

Finally, congratulations to Sheryl Wong, a current third year student, who attended the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa in 2001. Sheryl was invited by the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (Anti-Discrimination Unit) to be a panellist at a gathering commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March in Geneva.

MIKE CLARE