



## IS NATIONAL UNIFORMITY IN CHILD WELFARE LEGISLATION THE ANSWER?

BY FRANCIS LYNCH

Given the relatively small size of Australia there would be many who would agree with Liddell & Liddell (2000, p. 10) who suggest that "eight different sets of child protection legislation in a country of 19 million is excessive." Whilst there have been a number of people and organisations that have suggested that national uniform child welfare legislation is warranted, there has not been a consensus of opinion within the professional community, and certainly not a political groundswell to move forward. We need to consider whether it is acceptable in Australia for a child to be protected in one State from a particular abusive situation but not in another (Fogarty 1995).

In answering this question it is important to assess it from the point of view of children who are vulnerable, parents who are confused and unaware of the complexities awaiting them, and workers who are frustrated by the injustices that can occur within the present child welfare context.

Children will not understand all the Constitutional reasons why children are treated differently in different States. In fact most children will never be aware of the differences that exist. What certain children might be aware of is their own situation of abuse that may or may not be responded to - depending on where they live. The child may also become very confused as a variety of different systems become involved in their situation - different courts and judges and lawyers wanting them to tell their story again and again. The child may wonder whether our community is protecting them or further traumatising them.

Parents may also experience some of the same concerns as children do in the current system. They will experience confusions and anger as they try to navigate - often unaided - through the maze of legal arena's. Some abusive parents will be skillful enough to manipulate the confusion to prolong proceedings and thereby further inflict damage on a child. Some parents who have the desire to change their behaviour and work to have their children remain in their care, or be returned to their care, will be squashed in the process and harbour ill-will to those who want assist them.

Workers learn to live in the current systems. They often see first hand the difficulties, the paradoxes, the systems abuses, and the pain that can be delivered by a disjointed system of private and public child welfare law. Some of these workers will become exhausted as they take the constant buffeting of the system and try to protect the children and families that they work with from the systems abuse - where possible.

Uniformity in child welfare legislation in Australia is not a magic answer in its own right to some of the problems that exist in our current systems. However, there should be further debate in the professional child welfare community and then the general community about what we might gain by changing what we currently have in place.

### States Rights vs. Rights of the Child

It is suggested by Schetzer (2000) that the major obstruction to the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the way the Australian Constitution separates powers between the State and Federal arenas. She notes that the ratification of the Convention by the Australian Commonwealth Government does not mean that the Convention automatically becomes part of Australian law.

The Commonwealth can enact legislation to give effect to the Convention in such a way that it overrules any State laws. Schetzer (2000) makes it clear that the Commonwealth government has chosen not to put legislative weight behind the Convention and has in fact allowed State governments to act contrary to the Convention.

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## Models for National Uniform Child Welfare Legislation

There are a number of paths that could be pursued in the quest for National Uniform Child Welfare legislation.

### Ratification may be enough - External affairs power?

Whilst Schetzer (2000) suggests that the Commonwealth has to legislate for the rights described in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child to have effect in Australia, there are contrary opinions that are backed by decisions of the High Court of Australia.

In the case of *Minister for Immigration v Ah Hin Teoh* (1995) the High Court ruled that whilst the Convention has not been incorporated by legislation into Australian law, this does not mean that it has no effect. The High Court stated that statute law should be read (unless it is to the absolute contrary) so as to assume that a meaning of the statute that could support the Convention should be the preferred meaning. The High Court also noted that the development of the common law can be rightly influenced by the international conventions that the Commonwealth sees fit to ratify (Austlii 2001).

### Corporations law in Australia - an example of national legislation

Section 51(37) of the Constitution allows the states to refer agreed powers to the Commonwealth government. This has occurred in recent times when the States referred their right to legislate on corporate law, allowing the Commonwealth to legislate for the whole country. If the example of Corporations Law in Australia is to be of use in regard to Child Welfare Law reform then it is in highlighting the difficulty of cooperation between States and the Commonwealth in Australia.

### Model law - an example of national guidelines

Another method for achieving a national legislative framework is where the States agree on a "model law", and then all agree to enact the same legislation in each state (Williams 2001). An example of this in recent times is the agreement by the states to enact legislation allowing the transfer of child welfare orders between states - thereby allowing guardianship or supervision orders etc. to be transferable between states.

This is a good outcome that allows greater protection for children. However, if the legislation is not enacted in each state, or is enacted differently in each state the outcome for children is not ideal.

### State-Commonwealth cooperation - the example of cross-vesting

In the past there have been cross-vesting arrangements between the State and Commonwealth jurisdictions in relation to child protection matters. This had allowed the Family Court to exercise state-based child welfare powers when child protection issues arose in the course of its work. This allowed Family Court magistrates to actually make a child a state ward under state legislation.

However, in *Re Wakim; Ex parte McNally* the High Court in 1999 ruled that the legislation that had vested state powers to a federal court was invalid. This stopped the Family Court from deciding child protection matters, except in the state-based Western Australian Family Court (Kovacs 2000).

## Merge family law and child protection law

The report of the Family Law Council (2000) titled *The best interest of the child? The interaction of public and private law in Australia*, canvasses a range of proposals for reform to the child welfare system in Australia. One of the major proposals is for a unified Family Court that can deal with all matters that arise in families. This would require the referral of all child welfare powers to the Commonwealth.

### The Way Forward

Whilst it is clear from the above that there has been some discussion in the community of the need for uniform child welfare legislation in Australia there is no consensus in the professional or general community that this is a desirable outcome. Indeed there may never be a consensus that uniformity is desirable or achievable. Even if the professional or general community thought it was desirable there is no guarantee that the political will would exist to make the major changes necessary for it happen. However, if Australia wishes to treat families and children with any degree of equality a national approach in child protection should be attempted.

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# LETTERS

**Mr. Lex McCulloch**  
*Executive Director, Metropolitan Service Delivery  
Department for Community Development*

Dear Mr. McCulloch

It has come to attention of the Australian Association of Social Worker's Western Australian Branch that an officer in the Department for Community Development without a social work credential is currently in a position in a care for children team that is routinely filled by a Senior Social Worker. It is my understanding that this position has historically been a senior social work position.

While the AASW/WA is aware that the officer is actually held against a level 5 community development item, the AASW/WA believes that this appointment was made in order to circumvent the need for the worker to hold a social work qualification. This is evidenced by the fact that the worker early on in the acting opportunity signed an official communication as Acting Senior Social Worker and the team leader of the care for children team introduced the worker as the "Senior" in the team.

Members across the Department have complained to the Association about this matter. The AASW/WA sees this as a serious action on the Department's part, especially when you yourself indicated that you were not prepared to change the essential selection criteria for the level 5's in the care for children teams from a social work degree as you indicated that the risks were too great to do so.

The AASW/WA lauded you for that stance at the time because, we, as yourself, believe that a social work qualification enhances the likelihood of critical analysis of the case situation occurring. Historical evidence suggests that this analytical ability coupled with evidence based theory and practice knowledge and skills and a commitment to a professional code of ethics makes it more likely that a comprehensive intervention plan will be developed rather than a task approach occurring.

In light of members and the Association's concerns, we seek a reply from yourself as to how this situation will be addressed. At a minimum we would seek assurance that the officer not be allowed to continue in the position once the current acting is complete, that the officer refrain from identifying herself as a social worker and that it be clearly be conveyed to the team and any others who have contact with the team that the officer is not filling the senior social worker position, that the position is still vacant and that the officer is acting purely as a case manager in the team.

We would also seek your assurance that appointing an officer without a social work degree to a position that requires a social work qualification will not occur in the future and that this be conveyed to managers.

We would appreciate your reply to these issues and any other strategies you can suggest that will reassure the AASW/WA that the position is a senior social worker position and will continue to be filled by a person with a social work qualification.

Please note that this letter and your reply will be published in the Branch's newsletter as is all such correspondence.

The AASW/WA appreciates your consideration of this matter. We have always found yourself amenable to discussion on such issues and have routinely valued consistent identification of

yourself as social worker and your commitment to the value of the profession.

In anticipation

Chris Coopes, MAASW, Acc  
Vice President, Social Policy

9 April 2002

**Mr Chris Coopes**  
*Vice President Social Policy*

Dear Chris

Thank you for your letter of 9 April 2002.

As you are aware, the Department is faced with many challenges at this time and all of our staff are working extremely hard to provide a valuable service to the community in Western Australia.

The senior social worker position in the Cannington care for children team was advertised as an acting opportunity. There were no applications from social workers for this position. As you correctly point out, the position is still in the care for children team, however, it does not have anyone against it. The worker you are referring to is not in a senior social worker position, is not a social worker and as I understand it, after some initial confusion, is not referring to herself or being referred to, as a senior social worker.

I assure you the position will be advertised again in the near future and it is hoped that there is more interest from social workers when this occurs.

I must state, however, that the Department always reserves the right to determine which positions require social work qualifications and which require other skills and abilities which allow us to perform our full range of responsibilities to the community. Because a position has a requirement for a social work qualification at this time does not mean that will be the case into the future.

Thank you again for your letter and for the interest of your association in the operations of the Department.

Lex McCulloch  
Executive Director, Metropolitan Service Delivery  
Department for Community Development

3 May 2002

**Mr. Lex McCulloch**  
*Executive Director, Metropolitan Service Delivery  
Department for Community Development*

Dear Mr. McCulloch

Thank you for your letter of May 3, 2002 concerning the Senior Social Worker position in the Care for Children team in Cannington. The AASW is pleased to learn that the position will soon be readvertised. I would hope that the Department will implement a range of strategies to encourage social workers to apply for the position, given that an essential selection criteria for the position is a social work degree.

I did note your final paragraph where you indicate that the Department might reconsider whether the position will continue to be a senior social worker position in the future. While the AASW clearly understands the Department's right to review its

staff complement, it is difficult for the AASW to comprehend why the Department would no longer classify the position as a social work one.

This seems particularly perplexing given that the position is a senior position and in the critical Care for Children area. This is also concerning in light of the Association's understanding that you have previously indicated that you would not consider making the level 5 positions in the Care for Children team generic positions given the risks involved in such work. I also recall that at our recent meeting between the AASW and the Department which you attended, the A/Director General indicated that the Department had no plans to deprofessionalise service delivery.

I would appreciate your clarification.

Chris Coopes, MAASW, Acc  
Vice President, Social Policy

6 June 2002

***The West Australian  
Letter to the Editor***

Mr. Costello – A safer Australia for whom?

The Federal Government's decision to spend \$250 million over the next year on border protection for a "safer Australia" begs the question – "A safer Australia for whom?"

When we have three current government inquiries in three states and an Anglican Church inquiry into the protection of our children and when three in every four women murdered in this country are murdered by an intimate partner, tell us exactly who is Mr. Costello protecting?

Certainly not the average woman, man, or child for whom a "safer Australia" means living without fear and harm on an everyday basis, as part of everyday life. It's certainly not for them or for people with disabilities.

Needless to say, in this budget our very own Federal Government has missed the core elements of building our nation because it's too busy detaining people in sub-human conditions or perhaps they are trying to protect us from those with disabilities who the Government implies could work if they only wanted to!

Dr. Barbara Meddin, MAASW, Acc  
President

19 May 2002

***Dr. Ruth Shean  
Chief Executive Officer  
Disabilities Services Commission***

Dear Dr Shean

Re: Proposed Abolition of the Principal Social Work Position  
And The Future Provision Of Disabilities Services Commission  
Social Work Services In Metropolitan Areas

The Australian Association of Social Workers/WA Branch recently became aware of the proposed abolition of the position of Principal Social Worker.

The Association is concerned that that the proposed abolition will have a significant impact on both the provision of quality social work services for people with disabilities as well as the Commission's ability to maintain the appropriate level of support

to staff in the Commission. It is the AASW/WA's belief that the position is central to maintaining the Commission's program of social work services through the provision of social work supervision for its senior staff managing a diversity of serious, complex individual and family situations.

I am seeking your clarification and reassurance that any proposed changes to the Commission's professional social work staffing level and discipline supervision will not negatively impact on the access, quality, and provision of skilled social work services for clients of your agency. I refer to your previous correspondence to the Association where you indicated your intention and commitment to maintain the continuation and integrity of the social work service by the Commission (1999).

Commission social workers provide highly skilled intervention and specific support to clients and their families in highly contentious and complex case situations that relate, for example, to areas such as domestic violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Currently the Principal Social Worker position provides skilled leadership, supervision, training, and support to social work supervisors on contentious cases and systemic issues. The position is also seen as critical to providing direction and support to social workers in your organization on case management, co-ordination and system processes.

Additionally I am concerned that to abolish the Principal Social Worker position would result in there being no social work position in the Commission above level 5, thus eliminating any professional career structure. There is also a real concern that the existing level 5 social work supervisor positions would not have access to discipline specific supervision within the Commission. Eliminating the Principal position would also likely result in more responsibilities being handed on to the existing social work supervisors without any additional compensation.

I am also aware that the proposed changes are not just limited to the Principal Social Worker position but encompasses other discipline positions such as the principal positions in clinical psychology, speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy. The concerns raised above would be relevant, I believe, to these positions also.

It appears to me that the elimination of the Principal Social Work position is effectively down grading the social work profession (and other professions) in the Commission. I urge you to consider the implications of the proposed changes and its impact on the quality of service delivery for clients of your department as well as upon staff of your organization.

The Association would be pleased to discuss these issues with you to clarify your position in relation to maintaining the integrity of social work services in the Commission.

Dr. Barbara J. Meddin, MAASW, Acc  
President

6 June 2002

## Office of Mental Health Services Clinical Strategic Group

The WA Department of Health (DOH) has undertaken a restructure since the election of the Gallop Labor Government, which is now beginning to be put into place. One of the significant outcomes has been the change for Mental Health. The Office of the Chief Psychiatrist is no longer combined with the functions responsible for the policy and resourcing of mental health services.

The Office of Mental Health Services (OMHS) now sits separately, and with this change, new advisory and operational structures are being developed. These structures are of great importance for mental health, as the Manager of the OMHS no longer sits on the DOH Executive. Hence, our voices need to be louder to be effectively heard.

The new OMHS has established a Clinical Strategic Group (CSG), which has the purpose of providing expert clinical advice and consultation on clinical policy and service requirements. There are separate structures for consumer and carers to provide advice to the OMHS. A similar clinical advisory group did exist for the now disbanded Metropolitan Mental Health Service.

The new CSG builds upon its previous membership of metropolitan clinical directors (all consultant psychiatrists), to now include two rural members (both consultant psychiatrists), and 1 representative from nursing, social work, clinical psychology, and occupational therapy. Expressions of interest were called for and I was fortunate to be selected as the social work representative on the CSG (following endorsement by the AASW).

The CSG meets each fortnight and is currently developing a work plan for future meetings. Issues can be raised by any CSG member and require a short briefing note to outline the issue prior to it being placed on the agenda. This process now ensures there is an opportunity for social work to be directly raising and debating issues in mental health policy and service delivery which are critical to us as a profession.

I have now met with Dr Barbara Meddin (Branch President), Chris Coopes (Vice President, Social Policy) and Kanthi Perera and John Hodges (Mental Health Subcommittee co-convenors) to determine a communication and consultation for me to most effectively represent social work. It has been agreed that the CSG representative will:

- establish a distribution list of all social workers employed by a DOH mental health service, and circulate CSG endorsed minutes and draft policies for comment;
- distribute endorsed minutes and draft policies to the AASW mental-health sub-committee for comment;
- meet with the AASW Mental Health Subcommittee each second month to provide updates on the CSG; and
- seek issues for consideration by members and the mental health sub-committee via email. Any issues forwarded to me will then be circulated through the above distribution lists for comment.

Once an issue is generally agreed, then I will request a lead member to draft the short briefing note required by the CSG, before I raise it as an agenda item. I can be contacted at [anthony.collier@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:anthony.collier@health.wa.gov.au). Social workers who are not employed by the State Health Services can also raise issues by firstly directing them to the AASW Mental Health Subcommittee for consideration.

**ANTHONY COLLIER**

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

A draft social policy survey was completed this month. The aim of the survey is to identify members particular area of expertise and knowledge and to inform the development of an AASW/WA social policy plan. National office completed a similar survey some months ago and the outcome has directed the national social policy committee plan.

Members may be aware that there is a national "Reconciliation and Indigenous Issues" subcommittee. Part of developing a social policy plan will not only be to link in with this national committee but also continue with developing links within the state on Aboriginal issues. There has been liaison with several members in this area and it is hoped this will become an interest group or similar.

UWA have begun their review of mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse. The University held a focus group of AASW/WA members to discuss and explore the issues surrounding mandatory reporting. The AASW/WA will also be completing a written response based on the focus group discussion, outlining both the pros and cons of the debate. The written response will also assist the committee of management in their consideration of the issue.

Finally, the AASW/WA had a letter to the editor published in "The West Australian" on 22 May. The letter related to the Federal budget and the government's decision to increase spending on border protection regardless of the fact that there are significant internal social issues the country is facing.

Please remember that beginning the 3rd of July is the "National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee" week.

**KATHY BLITZ-COKIS**  
**SOCIAL POLICY OFFICER**

## News From Curtin University of Technology

The last year has been an exciting one for the school. We have embarked on new teaching and research initiative and there has also been some significant staffing changes. Professor Jim Ife joined the School of Social Work & Social Policy in March 2001. In April this year he stepped down as Head of School. Jim continues as Professor and provides leadership in continuing to grow our already vibrant postgraduate research and coursework programs.

We welcomed Sabina Leitmann as the new Head of School. Sabina is a longstanding academic staff member and in the 1990's she was also the Director of the Western Australian Consortium of Social Policy Research. Her extensive experience in working within the University context, including participation in central decision making committees, will prove invaluable in steering the School to a hopefully strong position in the new organisational configuration for the Division of Humanities. The School will keep the social work community informed of the outcomes of this current restructure.

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## Colleagues in the School

2002 has also seen us farewell Ron Moffett, Ranjit Kumar, Judy Esmond and Phil Connors. Ron has been with the School since it's earliest years and played a significant role in growing the course from an associateship to a professional degree. We wish him well in his retirement. Ranjit came to the School from what was then the WAIT School of Public Health and was instrumental in shaping our research curriculum. Ranjit too has retired though you might see him out and about town working as a consultant. Judy Esmond resigned earlier this year after six years with the School to pursue her career outside of academia. We congratulate her on her recent publication 'Count Me In; 501 Ideas on Recruiting Volunteers'. Phil Connors leaves us after nine years. Phil will be taking up a tenured lecturer position in social work at Deakin University in Geelong, Victoria.

This year sees us welcome four new academic staff. We welcome Tony Cooke who joins us in a joint appointment with the Curtin Business School as Associate Professor with a particular focus on social policy. Ian Percy joins us from Centrecare strengthening the school's expertise in the areas of counselling, narrative practice and spirituality in social work.

In semester two Angela Fielding and Robyn Martin also take up lecturer positions. Angela brings with her a strong background in the areas of health and refugee services in the government and non-government sector. Robyn will work with us on a part-time basis allowing her to maintain her practice links with Ruah Inreach. She contributes to the school's teaching and research interests in the areas of domestic violence, mental health and human services management.

## Students in the School

The School has a long tradition of facilitating field placements in developing countries. This semester two students, Michael Berry and Sharon Thompson undertook their field placements in East Timor in Dili. This experience will have both tested and strengthened their abilities to practice community development in a cross-cultural context and we look forward to hearing about their learning on their return.

Barbara Binks and Natalie Corbette completed their placement in Sri Lanka, at the Women's Development Centre, Kandy. From their emails we know they have learnt much about working with women in a developing country and how this is both facilitated and hindered by wider national and international policy agendas.

At the local level we congratulate 2001 graduates who were awarded the following prizes:

- Mental Health Prize - Vanessa Rowe
- Peter Jordon Prize in Social Justice - Gladys Clinch
- Barbara Kinna prize for the top graduating student - Kate Beaumont

We also congratulate Susan Andrew, Tracey Rienets, Robin Shortland-Jones and Erika Bell-Bray for their nomination to the Vice-Chancellor's list for 2001.

Congratulations to Tina Fernandis, Andrew Turnell, Jennie Gray, Barabara Black, Jan Woodland and Jo Zubrzycki who were awarded postgraduate scholarships to undertake their PhD studies in 2002.

A final applaud to Marion Palmer for completing her Masters dissertation in 2001. Her thesis was titled 'Exploring and Framing Community Building with Australian Defence Families: An Insider's View'.

The school feels privileged to be a footnote in the making of Australian political history in Australia. Carole Martin a 1992

graduate from the Curtin School of Social Work is the first indigenous woman to hold a seat in any house of parliament in Australia. We wish Carole every success as the Member for Kimberly and respect the ways in which she draws on her social work knowledge and experience in working for change in the political arena.

## Kalgoorlie Launch

This year the School has formed a partnership with the Kalgoorlie campus of Curtin University to offer the Bachelor of Social Work program to Goldfield residents. A formal launch will be held in July and Bentley staff look forward to building ongoing relationships with both Curtin staff and social work practitioners in the Kalgoorlie region.

## Postgraduate Programs

The School has developed a number of Masters by coursework programs. These are Masters of Community Development, Masters of Social Development, Masters of Counselling and Masters of Social Policy. Each of these is a three semester masters. If you are interested in finding out more about these please contact the school on 9266 7030.

## Research

Congratulations to Sabina Leitmann and Fran Crawford who have received Higher Education Equity Program grant for a project titled Facilitating University Access and participation for students aged twenty five and above from the low-SES areas in the South East metropolitan area. Fran and Sabina continue their work on the making of social work in Western Australia and an article from this research was published in Australian Social Work, September 2001.

Continuing her involvement in domestic and family violence, Jennifer Gardiner is part of a national research team exploring better and promising practices in domestic violence perpetrator programs through federal and state "Partnerships Against Domestic Violence".

Jim Ife in collaboration with the School of Social Work, Queensland University has recently submitted a research application to the highly competitive Australian Research Council to study community development in Australia. We wish the project success.

Fran Crawford has worked with the Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin to submit a research proposal to Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute to study the housing needs of Indigenous women experiencing family violence. They have been short listed for this grant and we wish them every success.

## Re accreditation

The School underwent re accreditation for the Bachelor of Social Work in March 2002. Many people contributed towards the success of this process. We thank past and present students who met with the review panel and field supervisors and the Advisory Board members who made themselves available to consult with the panel.

In preparing for the reaccreditation the School conducted an industry consultation in November 2001. From this activity we have continued to develop our curriculum and initiate new partnerships in field education and research with some of the participating agencies.

These partnerships offer new possibilities for developing social work education and research and fits well within the new socio-political discourse of government, community and industry partnerships.

## ACCREDITATION

Just a reminder to fill in your logbooks and remember to indicate on your renewal form if you are wanting accreditation and have completed sufficient points to be accredited.

You don't need to send your logbooks in - an audit will be done through calling for a random number of logbooks based on those submitting for accreditation.

Lost your logbook? To request another call National Office 1800 630 124.

## NEW MEMBERS

The WA Branch welcomes the following new members

Angela Bryan	DCD
Patricia Gomez	Student
Mark Johnston	Student
Sarah Sibbald	Student
Shelly Skinner	St John of God
Trudy Smoker	New Graduate
Kareen Van Zyl	Peel Community Health
Jennifer Victory	Alma St
Kylie Walsh	One World Centre

## Go to the Joint Conference for Free! Are You An AASW Member?

### AASW WA CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

This year's State Conference will be held in conjunction with ASWWE's National conference in Perth 29 September - 2 October 2002. An exciting program has been developed around the theme of *Working across borders*. Take this opportunity to be a part of the action!

This year the AASW WA has two opportunities for members to participate in the conference for free. One opportunity is for a remote practitioner and the other is for a student or unwaged member.

### REMOTE PRACTITIONER SCHOLARSHIP

The AASW WA Branch is again seeking a Remote Practitioner to attend this year's Conference. As part of its support to remote practitioners, the Branch will again support a member of the AASW who is a remote practitioner to attend this year's Conference. In order to be considered, an applicant must be:

- a member of the WA Branch of the AASW, and
- 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 disseminate the information acquired at the conference to their region or community when they return from the conference.

The scholarship winner will be asked to indicate to the Branch how they went in implementing their strategy to disseminate the information.

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.

### THE ERLENE CHUN SCHOLARSHIP

Registration and conference dinner for this year's Conference for a student or unwaged member of the WA Branch. The AASW WA Branch has pleasure in being able to offer for its second year a Scholarship made possible from the donation of a WA member, Erlene Chun.

The Branch would like to hear from you if you are interested in attending the conference for free and are:

- a member of the WA Branch of the AASW; and
- are a student or are unwaged.

Applicants who wish to be considered need to submit a brief request of no longer than 1 page for sponsorship to attend the conference stating how you may benefit from attendance and how you may share the information with other colleagues/or community where possible.

The person selected will have their conference registration fee paid for attending all days of the Conference and for the Conference dinner.

Contact: Anne Pickard on 9229 2610 for further information. Submissions for both scholarships should be sent to:

*Executive Officer, AASW WA Branch  
PO BOX 198 West Perth 6872  
or Fax to 9310 3936  
No later than C.O.B Friday 9th August 2002*