

WA SOCIAL WORK NEWS

February 2005

Inside This Issue

President's Report.....	1
Executive & contact details	2
CPE event 1 March	2
Report on inaugural AGM.....	2
State Conference update	3
Notice: Australian Humanitarian Award 2005	3
Family & Domestic Violence update.....	4

The beauty of any flight, after all, is that, as soon as we leave the ground, we leave a sense of who we are behind. The four walls that marked and enclosed our lives this morning grow smaller and still smaller, less and less distinct, till finally they disappear altogether in a grid of houses all around. We rise and rise through the clouds, into a blue stillness, and the very 'we' and 'I' that seemed so urgent when we awoke become as remote, as hard to take seriously, as that house far, far below, now invisible.

Pico Iyer. Sun after dark: flights into the foreign. Bloomsbury, 2005.

Thought for the Day

Work is of two kinds: first, altering the position of matter at or near the earth's surface relatively to other such matter; second, telling other people to do so. The first kind is unpleasant and ill paid; the second is pleasant and highly paid.

Bertrand Russell (1872-1970) In praise of idleness and other essays (1932).

Online Version

An online version of the newsletter can be found at

<http://socprofsocwkr.highway1.com.au>

■ PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A happy and productive New Year to you all, and welcome to the SPSW's second year of operation. Last year saw the full establishment of the Society, the development of a solid membership base, provision of interesting relevant and stimulating continuing professional education (CPE), and an outstanding conference. 2005 will continue to be a year of building, and consolidation.

On Boxing Day the appalling Indian Ocean Tsunami occurred. Your Board was shocked by the enormity of the disaster and anxious to do what it could to assist our colleagues and the provision of essential social work resources in the affected areas.

To this end it is working with the UWA School of Music to provide a fund raising concert in aid of the victims. This will be held during the winter months, with the program content being provided by Perth's finest musicians and project managed by the SPSW. The money will supply ongoing funds which will be desperately needed at that time and we are expecting to work with our colleagues in Sri Lanka with whom we have association.

Our second annual conference ***Social Workers in Motion Globally, Nationally, Locally*** will be held on 3 and 4 May 2005 at the Wollaston Conference Centre. It promises to be another important event for the profession and every bit as appropriate and contemporary as the last.

As has been our approach to CPE in the past, we will ensure that conference fees be kept within reasonable bounds. For us to continue to do this we urge all members to encourage as many of their colleagues to join the SPSW as possible.

However, you will notice that on this occasion there is a larger differentiation between members and non members for conference registration.

We can only maintain relatively low cost events if we can grow our membership to a point where we can afford some paid infrastructure. If we can't do this we will have to recover through the cost of our events

We have been successful in maintaining the momentum of our CPE activities through the hard work of a group of volunteers. Please see program details elsewhere in this publication. To ensure that the profession stays relevant to the contemporary human services sector and that that social workers have the knowledge and skills to provide quality services, the SPSW will continue to vigorously organize and deliver CPE events

The Board of the SPSW continues to hold dialogue with the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) about the future and the possibility of the AASW altering its constitution to properly empower its branches.

Significantly the gap left by the AASW in WA has been filled by the SPSW at lower cost to social workers without compromising quality.

For those of you who are not members and who read this I urge you to join us, your local WA professional association providing services local professionals want so we can ensure together that our profession remains relevant and your jobs secure.

BRIAN WOOLLER
PRESIDENT

Published by

Society of Professional Social Workers
(Inc). PO Box 156, Subiaco, Western
Australia 6904 ABN 90 404 582 393
socwork@highway1.com.au

Editor

Greg Swensen, 9370 0357
gswensen@westnet.com.au

Advertising Rates

Full page (180 x 240)	\$175
Half page (180 x 120)	\$100
Quarter page (120 x 90)	\$60
Eighth page (60 x 90)	\$45
Pre printed A4 insert	\$75

Committee

President

Brian Wooller 9225 0400
WoollerB@mission.com.au

Vice President

Brian Dodds 9272 2399
bjdodds@optusnet.com.au

Secretary

Mary Joyce 9346 4671
Mary.Joyce@health.wa.gov.au

Treasurer

Karen Vincent 6488 3921
kvincent@student.biz.uwa.edu.au

Board Members

Pattie Benjamin 9381 9496
pbenjamin@iprimus.com.au

Paddy Glasgow 9336 2144
paddyg@dodo.com.au

Cindy Gorton 9244 7797
jonandcindy@bigpond.com

Marion Palmer -
mpvpalmer@bigpond.com

Anne Pickard 9229 2610
apickard@vtown.com.au

Greg Swensen 9370 0357
gswensen@westnet.com.au

WA Social Work News is published by the Society of Professional Social Workers (Inc). The information published in this newsletter is given in good faith and has been derived from sources believed to be accurate.

Neither the Society, nor any of its agents, employees or directors gives any warranty of reliability or accuracy or accepts any responsibility arising in any way including negligence for errors or omissions.

CPE Breakfast Forum

Tuesday 1 March, 8.30 am - 11.30 am

The Federal Minister for the Ageing, the Hon. Julie Bishop, will address a breakfast forum run by the SPSW on the topic of "Current and future directions in aged care."

The Minister's presentation will be preceded by an address by Dr Penelope Flett, with the topic of "Pandora's box". We have a very good aged care system in Australia & can be justly proud of it. However, there is still great unmet need for the older people in aged care, their families & individual staff who work there. Penny will explore some of these needs - the more we look the more we find.

Who should attend?

Allied health professionals, nurses, all those who work in aged care facilities, those who have contact through their work with aged people & carers.

What will you get from it?

A first hand insight into current Federal Government policy & plans & the rare opportunity to meet with your Minister.

Insight into the perhaps undreamed of needs of ageing people which will require our creativity & best practice from the celebrated head of Brightwater Care Group & former WA Business Woman of the Year.

Further details from website

AGM REPORT

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of the SPSW was held on 18 October 2004, attended by over 40 people and was held at the Niche Lotteries House in Nedlands.

Brian Wooller, as President of the Society, addressed the meeting and summarised the activity of the SPSW since its commencement. He emphasised the successful conference held in 2004

and the ongoing CPE program, which continues to attract many workers and holds wide appeal. These events are held at competitive prices in order to attract strong support from practitioners.

Brian also thanked various Board members, in particular Karen Vincent and Cindy Gorton, for the success of the conference. He also thanked Emma White and Roma Lewi who were leaving the Board of Directors for their support during this critical formation period and Greg Swensen for his ongoing support and dedication in relation to producing the regular newsletters and setting up and maintaining the website.

Brian also commended the other members of the Board who have volunteered their time untiringly and urged all members to participate and support their Society. The Treasurer's Report

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue, the April issue, will be 14 March 2005. This will be a printed newsletter and will be widely distributed to agencies and social workers in WA. The April issue will contain details of the Conference program.

The issue will thus be an opportunity for the inclusion of advertising material and pre printed fliers.

Continued on page 4

2ND ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE: 3 - 4 MAY 2005

SOCIAL WORKERS IN MOTION

Social Workers In Motion is the intriguing title of the Society of Professional Social Workers' 2nd Annual Social Work Conference being held 3 and 4th May this year at the Wollaston Conference Centre.

An international keynote speaker, Avril Butler, promises to inspire delegates with her current research interests and publications that reflect a diversity of activities with the fundamental theme of anti-oppressive and emancipatory practice. She has taught on the social work programs at the University of Plymouth and coordinated practice learning and assessment for 17 years following a career as a social work practitioner and manager. She will also present a session about her recent research during the Conference.

Papers and workshop topics will explore and develop Conference themes of social workers in motion, making a difference, creatively crossing boundaries, strengths-based practice, vision and leadership, active and healthy individuals, families and communities etc.

These will be interspersed with brief vignettes that capture a variety of social workers day to day experiences. For example *how* they make a difference, work effectively with complex cases, balance increasing workloads, guard against burnout and measure the impact of their interventions.

The spacious Conference venue surrounded by leafy environs provides a wonderful setting for practition-

You've got the talent... ...we've got the connections.



Amicus Recruit specializes in placing qualified Social Workers and Occupational Therapists throughout the UK.

We offer temporary or permanent positions with excellent rates of pay for New Graduates through to Senior Management.

From travel arrangements, to training, to securing the ideal position, we're with you every step of the way.

08 9339 0039
www.amicusrecruit.com.au
amicusrecruit@stara.iinet.net.au



ers from many fields to come together to learn about innovative practice, theory and skills, network, share experiences and hear about current research. Comfortable accommodation is available on site for regional delegates.

Come along and be part of this *very valuable professional development event* for social workers and other human service professionals from across WA in 2005.

2005 Australian Humanitarian Awards

Nominations are being sought for the 2005 Australian Humanitarian Awards

A panel of six judges will assess nominations in the categories of arts, entertainment & media, business, charity, education, environment, health, law, public office & social justice & young Australian.

There are both individual and group/organisation recipients in each category except 'Young Australian' where there is a male and female recipient. The Australian Humanitarian Awards are an initiative of the Australian Altruism Foundation, ABN 81 108 585 548, an ATO approved not-for-profit charity.

Nomination forms at [http:// www.altruism.org.au](http://www.altruism.org.au)

Mentors For New Graduates

Experienced practitioners are invited to become mentors for recent graduates as part of a SPSW program to support new members.

Contact Pattie Benjamin 9381 9496

Website

<http://socprofsocwkr.highway1.com.au/>

Discussion group

<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/wasocialwork/>

Email

socwork@highway1.com.au

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE UPDATE

The Family and Domestic Violence Unit of the Department for Community Development monitors the implementation of the *Western Australian Family and Domestic Violence State Strategic Plan 2004-2008*.

Community feedback is an important part of this process and it also helps to identify emerging issues, trends and gaps. Feedback forms on the strategic plan are now available on the Unit's website and can be found at "Have Your Say". Go to -

<http://www.community.wa.gov.au/resources/familydomesticviolence/>

Feedback can either be provided online or downloaded in hard copy. Feedback forms will remain on the site for four weeks. The information provided will inform the development of the 2005-2006 Action Plan.

Further details: Vicki Kelly, Acting Senior Policy and Engagement Officer, Family and Domestic Violence Unit, Department for Community Development.

The WA Police Service have also recently provided details about the Child Protection and Family Violence Unit and the Australian National Child (sex) Offender Register Unit.

There is new legislation in WA that affects how the police child protection and family violence matters are: the *Acts Amendment (Family and Domestic Violence) Act 2004* and *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*.

These are both new pieces of legislation and a lot of work has gone into the policy, procedures and practice to ensure that the WA Police implement the new scheme.

Ensure that your organisation obtains the correct level of service delivery, a quality response and is fully informed of what the police services are available and accessible to the community.

Further details: Martin Voyez, Acting Detective Inspector, Major Crime Division, WA Police Service.

Community Resources Online
Linking Communities to Information

DCD Home | About | Resources | Communities | News | Events | Publications | Jobs | Contacts | Search

DCD Home > Resources > Family & Domestic Violence > Family & Domestic Violence

Information about...	Family & Domestic Violence	Related Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">AccommodationAdoptionAwardsCarers & Foster CareChild CareChild ProtectionEducation & TrainingFamily & Domestic ViolenceFinancial HelpFinding out about your FamilyFunding & GrantsHelplinesParentingRetirement PlanningVolunteering	<p>If you, or someone you know are in immediate danger call the police on 000</p> <p>Seek help: If you need help there are a number of telephone numbers you can call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or services you can visit</p> <p>Find a service: You can search for services closest to you</p> <p>Find ways to help family or friends: Someone you know may need help. Find out the best way you can support them</p> <p>Find out about Family and Domestic Violence: Learn more about family and domestic violence</p> <p>Have Your Say</p> <p>Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan 2004-2005 Feedback is sought on the Family and Domestic Violence Action Plan 2004-2005 and will inform the development of the 2005-2006 Action Plan. Provide feedback</p> <p>What's New?</p> <p>Greenlight Youth Resources Directory > Domestic Violence: Domestic Violence resources for children and young people.</p>	<p>Related Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">State Strategic Plan (pdf)State Action Plan (pdf)Domestic Violence Student Kit (pdf)Other publications <p>Related Pages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">About the Family & Domestic Violence UnitRegional Domestic Violence CommitteesServices for MenContact Us <p>Related Sites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Freedom From FearUseful links <p>Other information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Domestic Violence Online Resource Guide

[Continued from page 2](#)

delivered by Mary Joyce, it confirmed the healthy status of the SPSW and the audited financial records were tabled.

Election of the Board confirmed the following the election of Brian Wooller as President, Brian Dodds as Vice-President, Mary Joyce as Secretary and Karen Vincent as Treasurer.

The following Directors were also elected -Anne Pickard, Marion Palmer, Greg Swensen, Cindy Gorton, Patti Bengamin and Paddy Glasgow.

General business was completed and included information on the locum register which is a new service provided to members and employers. To date, all people who have contacted the locum register have gained employment.

The meeting was then addressed by the guest speaker - The Commissioner of the Corruption and Crime Commission, Mr Kevin Hammond. This was an informative and challenging presentation and one with great relevance to social work practitioners.

The meeting closed and was followed by a sit down dinner where great food, wine and camaraderie flowed.