

Editorial Comments

Welcome to the second issue of the *New Zealand Journal of Counselling* for 2004. The contributions to this issue show how far we have come as a profession, as well as indicating the increasing complexities of current practice. Counsellors have to respond to more and more diverse populations, within an ever-changing environment. This requires flexibility, a willingness to take on board new perspectives and an ethical commitment. We think the material presented here demonstrates that capacity.

We have taken “advanced practice issues” as the theme for this issue. The articles grapple with new demands that are now made on counsellors, and describe specialised forms of practice that have been developed to meet these demands. They present particular responses to particular situations, the implications for safe practice, and suggestions for the future. We think they highlight aspects of the current socio-political context which call for resolution, and we are pleased to be able to present them to you.

Our first contribution, *Sexual Abuse Counsellors' Responses to Stress and Trauma: A Social Work Perspective*, is from Margaret Pack, who explores the effect on counsellors of working with the trauma of sexual abuse. How do sexual abuse counsellors integrate their personal philosophy, their practice experience and their theoretical orientation without falling prey to “vicarious traumatisation”? The author identifies some factors that increase resilience, and presents a new “multi-level understanding” of the challenges and their personal implications. Dr Pack notes that this field of work is characterised by dissonance, and it is thus increasingly important to ensure safe working conditions for practitioners. This paper is an important contribution.

The second article is by Kathie Crocket, Desmond Cooper, John Crockett, Jill Elder, Paul Flanagan, Peter Horide, Susan Mortlock, Glen Silvester, Wendy Talbot and Carol White. *Responsibility in Counselling Supervision in New Zealand: An Exploratory Study of Supervisor Perspectives* addresses differing perspectives on supervisors' responsibility for counsellors' work. The authors explore the views and experiences of a group of supervisors who are also counsellors. The paper provides an interesting exploration of the nature and understanding of responsibility, and has particular relevance in a climate of increasing demands for accountability.

Jill Goldson and Tiaria Rauhihi Fletcher tackle the challenge of biculturalism in counselling training. In *Training for Bicultural Intervention with Families* they propose

a collaborative model that engages all participants in active participatory dialogue and avoids replicating conditions of cultural domination. The authors' concern to represent the voice of both Treaty partners is all the more important at a time when other professional concerns might appear more pressing.

Following this, Dale Furbish continues the theme of the previous *Journal*, which focused on both careers and professionalisation. His paper, *Professionalisation for New Zealand Career Practice: Lessons to Learn, Challenges to Meet*, looks at the emerging profession of career practice and the role of the Career Practitioners Association of New Zealand (CPANZ). At a time when professional organisations may be tempted to carve out separate territories, ongoing interdisciplinary discussion and debate is important. We hope that these two topics will stay alive in our *Journal*.

Finally, Hans Everts presents *The Pastoral Needs of International Students in New Zealand Secondary Schools*. International students are an increasingly significant part of our educational and cultural environment. This study addresses the need to pay more attention to the way in which they are integrated into, and recognised as part of, the way of life in Aotearoa/New Zealand. It provides a background to discussions about how international students can become more accepted members of their peer community.

All these articles have relevance to issues which are currently important and which we believe need keeping in the forefront of our professional consciousness. We hope you will find them a good read, as well as useful. For this issue we would like to thank the following team of rigorous reviewers: Judi Miller, John Crompton, Ada Crowe, Frances Griffiths, Janet Mace, Tina Besley, Adi Dale, Irene Paton, Hans Everts and Margaret Agee.

Sue Cornforth

Fran Parkin

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