

To: Waikato Branch Committee, NZAC

Re: John Winslade, PhD, Nomination for Life Membership of NZAC

Moved: Glen Silvester

Seconded: Paul Flanagan

We seek the Waikato Branch's support for this nomination of John Winslade for Life Membership of NZAC. The following is a brief summary of John's contributions to NZAC, and to counselling in Aotearoa and internationally.

Direct contributions to and leadership of NZAC

1. **Ethics.** During John's Convenorship of the National Ethics Committee (1997-2003), the current Code of Ethics was developed, and then ratified at the 2002 AGM. Both the process of the development of this new Code and the content of the Code benefitted from John's thoughtful approach to leadership in counselling. For example, as it was produced the Code of Ethics document went through many iterations, as a subgroup of the Ethics Committee led by John steered it through a series of consultations, including with the full Ethics Committee, Māori members, and every branch of NZAC. Each branch was given responsibility to respond to a particular section of the proposed document. While holding a wide vision of the ethical responsibilities and possibilities of professional practice, John encouraged a fine, line by line, word by word analysis of the proposal, working for resonance between principles, values, and guidelines, and drawing on members' practice wisdom. While consulting other Codes of Ethics and undertaking a literature review, John and the group brought a critical reading to these kinds of materials. Thus, as one example, that partnership comes ahead of autonomy in the NZAC Code arose from a clear decision intended to draw on the ethos of partnership invoked by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

John was a member of the National Ethics Committee before taking on the role of Chair. As an early member of the Ethics Committee in its current form, he participated in the development of the processes for responding to complaints against members, and participated in these processes. He also undertook the work of ethics education, within the local branch and more widely, including at national conferences.

And earlier still, John had convened an Auckland branch group charged with preparing the previous Code of Ethics that had been adopted at the 1991 AGM. Carol White recalls attending meetings in 1990, chaired by John where, with input from the Human Rights Commission and Robert Ludbrook from the Youth Law Project, this Code was prepared. Thus John's contribution to and leadership in the ethics work of the Association was sustained over time. It offered significant conceptual innovation that has stood the tests of implementation over time.

2. **Local participation.** John also participated actively as a branch member, first in Auckland and then in Waikato. Very soon after arriving in Hamilton in the early 1990s, when he was appointed to the University of Waikato counsellor education programme, John took on the role of branch secretary. He actively participated in the

branch team that organised a very successful international conference in Hamilton in 1999, leading the programme committee. He had lots of innovative ideas, and backed them up with solid work.

3. **Continuing Professional Development National Committee.** Most recently, having returned to Aotearoa New Zealand after a period of time in California, John has joined the Continuing Professional Development National Committee. From his USA experiences John brings to this committee productive understandings of various systems of counsellor regulation, along with commitment to professional education in counselling.

Academic work in counselling

John is known in Aotearoa and internationally for his contributions teaching and researching counselling and mediation. Until recently John Winslade was a Professor at California State University, San Bernadino, where for some years he led the counsellor education programme, having gained tenure in 2005, and achieving promotion to full professor in 2006. Now in NZ permanently, John has Emeritus Professor status from Cal State.

John moved to California State University after a decade as an academic staff member in the MCouns programme at the University of Waikato, including a period as Director of Counsellor Education. John was very active in developing the narrative therapy orientation for which the Waikato counsellor education programme has a national and international reputation. The serious scholarship of John's work was significant to these developments. After his move to Cal State, John continued to teach at Waikato, in a part-time role, focusing on his speciality of narrative mediation. Both at Waikato and in California, John was sought after as a research supervisor.

With Gerald Monk and others, John led the innovation of narrative approaches to mediation, conflict resolution and restorative practices, teaching these practices first at the University of Waikato, and in New Zealand, and subsequently in many international settings. The quality and significance of these international contributions in mediation and in narrative therapy and the high esteem in which John is held was attested to during a recent live tribute, to John, organised by the Dulwich Centre, Adelaide, Australia, one of the "homes" of narrative therapy with which John has fostered a strong association. Professionals from many countries spoke movingly about the value to their practice of what they had learned alongside John.

John's international presentations now number in their many hundreds, including many invited keynote presentations. Prior to his move to California, John also presented throughout Aotearoa, particularly in school counselling and in mediation. He was a regular presenter at NZAC conferences, and at branch PD events. Since his return to NZ he has taken opportunities contribute to professional development meetings.

John has a very extensive international publication record, including authored and edited books, book chapters, academic articles, professional articles, and professional audio-visual recordings. He has sole publications, and publications co-authored with practitioners and with other academics. John's writing on narrative therapy and mediation has been translated

into Japanese, Spanish, Danish, Chinese and Korean. John has served on many international editorial boards, and has done a wide range of reviewing.

John's work stands out for its scholarship. His academic positions have given him opportunities to engage robustly with philosophical articulations of narrative therapy, and to make significant original contributions. These contributions are marked for their pursuit of ethical practice, to make a difference in others' lives. John has used his scholarship to offer other practitioners access to critical thinking and thoughtful practice.

As well...

John's counselling practice was initially in Auckland secondary schools, for fourteen years. At the same time, he undertook part-time counselling with the Family Court in Auckland. John had an interest in drug education, contributing to the implementation and evaluation of the Gain Programme during the 1990s, in his time at the University of Waikato.

Over time John has had a particular interest in grief counselling. With Lorraine Hedtke, he built on Michael White's re-membering practices, contributing a substantial body of writing, and offering highly regarded international workshops.

And then there is John's humanity and compassion. As we have known him, John endeavours to live his values and principles in his relationships. As students and then as colleagues, we experienced him as interested in what we had to say, and available to find the best in us. He has thus over time contributed to the professional and personal lives of many in the local counselling community, and well beyond.

Ngā mihi nui, ngā mihi aroha hoki.