

Editorial Comments

This final *Journal* for 2003 should provide some serious reading over summer. In conjunction with feedback from reviewers, we have decided to include several longer articles than our guidelines suggest, articles that cover, in some depth, issues of importance and interest in the counselling community.

Elahe Khaleghian's article on *School Counsellors and the Ethics of Care* comes straight to the heart of our work. She looks at the role of school counsellors and how they might provide leadership by demonstrating a comprehensive approach to an ethics of care as a pattern for relationships between teachers and students. Based on educational philosophy, she puts out a challenge to counsellors to move from concentrating on resource issues and the role of service provision to one of leadership within the school community.

Tina Besley, in her article *A Risky Business: A Teenager's Dilemma in Disclosing Sexual Abuse*, follows the theme of ethics in a school environment. She looks at the complex issues surrounding sexual abuse disclosure. Using a specific case study, she examines some of the dilemmas, issues and risks that arise not only for a young person who discloses, but also for a counsellor.

Sue Watson and Stella Sweney's "*Earned Security*": *Can the Adult Attachment Interview Distinguish Between Parents Who Have Suffered Abuse as Children Who Will and Will Not Abuse Their Own Children?* may seem an unlikely article to have in a counselling journal. While much of the language is psychological and refers to an instrument that will not be available to counsellors, its content is interesting and useful for counsellors to reflect on. The case study might provide an alternative story to counter the overwhelming hopelessness that can prevail when we are confronted by what we may perceive to be cycles of abuse. While the authors acknowledge that their article is limited in scope, it does challenge the assumption that a secure upbringing will assist people to handle stress and crises in their lives. Both the literature review and the case study reflect on parenting styles and suggest that patterns need not be repeated, particularly if people are given the opportunity to reflect on their own parenting and articulate aspects that they value. This might, indeed, be a useful function for counselling.

While the focus is much wider, the final article provides an interesting follow-up to

last year's Special Issue, 'Working with Chinese Migrant Students and their Families'. Hans Everts' research on *The Peer Support Programme and Pastoral Needs of Overseas-born Students* suggests that while these programmes achieve their basic aims, they do not go far enough to meet the needs of migrant and international students for effective integration with their New Zealand-born peers. The article also makes some recommendations for the development of these programmes.

This has been a rich year for material. We have had a steady supply of articles and have kept a team of reviewers very busy. Our thanks this time go to Ros Broadmore, Lyn James, Bob Manthei, Irene Paton, Rhonda Pritchard, Sam Scott, Sue Sewell, John Tetley, Pat Thompson and Dick Wivell. We appreciate the time and the commitment offered by our reviewers, who have sometimes rejected material and have frequently suggested serious rewriting. While this can be a testing process, we hope it has been essentially constructive as we strive to continue a rigorous research culture. To this end, the Research Conference held in Wellington and attended by 15 researcher participants was a positive and supportive event, which we hope will be repeated and will continue to provide a forum for developing NZAC's research focus.

We wish you a relaxing and safe holiday, and absorbing reading.

Sue Cornforth

Fran Parkin