

Editorial

In this editorial I would once again like to stress the need to have articles on practice issues strongly represented in the journal and encourage practitioners to write. One difficulty with practice in Australia in the area of Family and Child Welfare, is that it is difficult to obtain information with respect to programs that are working effectively in the area. Whilst the pressure of day to day practice often precludes the writing up of programs and practice, publication is really the major way to disseminate knowledge about programs and to build better practice. We know that often little known programs are seen to be effective by the service deliverers and clients but if they are not written about we miss out on building our knowledge about what makes these programs work.

In this issue we focus on the planning and management of family and child welfare programs. In his article Michael Steer discusses the central components of normalization and in so doing identifies the importance of having a thorough knowledge of the concepts involved in utilizing theoretical models in program

planning. Another issue of practice is that of the need for knowledge of organizations to promote effective service delivery. The services to children and family depend for their efficacy not only on the knowledge skill and competency of those involved in the delivery of the services. The efficacy of the services depends also on the administration of the services. This administration is affected by the resources available to the particular programs both in terms of finances and people and the knowledge and skills of those involved in administering the program. The most valuable programs can be ineffective if not adequately resourced or effectively managed. However, it is not appropriate for those with practice knowledge in Family and Child Welfare to leave the management to those who do not have specialized knowledge in the area. The need for understanding of organizations for not only managers, but all staff is seen as essential knowledge. This issue also reports on the identification and treatment of a little known syndrome in a paper addressing the "Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy".

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Errata

Vol.11 No.4 (p.18) Table for Queensland Cases noted 1983-84 should read 4547 (not 1547).