

Editorial

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling. The journal has evolved from the Queensland Journal of Guidance and Counselling, first published in 1987.

While there is some regret attached to the changeover, there is also a feeling of expectation that the wider audience reading the journal will generate a higher contribution rate. Not all contributions can be published, but all are carefully and sympathetically reviewed (how else would counsellors operate?). I would like to acknowledge the members of the editorial panel for their diligent and professional assistance – they have put in much effort for very little reward. I would also like to thank Cliff Eames and Trish Duncan for their efforts in transforming the journal into reality. And so to the papers.

The first paper, by Peter Mara, is a timely reminder that counsellors should not fall prey to the “physician heal thyself” fallacy, but should develop active supportive networks. Mardie Whitla’s paper on child sexual abuse is not a ‘pleasant read’ but an essential comment on the present times, and one which should acquaint all practitioners with the issues involved in this disturbing topic.

Robyn Gillies reports on the effect on children’s writing of using verbal mediation strategies and group process skills implemented in small cooperative group settings. The results indicate that relatively simple procedures do contribute to gains made by the children.

The paper by Erica Frydenberg and Ramon Lewis outlines the development and refinement of a coping checklist for adolescents, the uses of the instrument.

The use of volunteer helpers in community health programs is addressed by Christian and Jupp. It is highly likely that volunteer helpers will be involved in many other settings as our society’s problems become more complex, and the article will be relevant to other situations.

The integration issue has re-emerged on the education agenda in Queensland. The paper by Tony Burton and Paul Burnett investigates the effect of educational placement (segregated versus mainstream) on the self-concept of mildly intellectually handicapped children, while the paper by Gabrielle Elich proposes a new model for the provision of resources for disadvantaged students on the basis of a profile developed from identified criteria.

Lindy Petersen’s work and programs in the social skills training area are becoming widely known in Australia and overseas. Her paper outlines the theory behind the program and a discussion of practical applications and research on the outcomes of the program.

The paper by Yvana Jones reports on the Aggressive Replacement Training program as an effective intervention for aggressive youth within a high school setting.

With the changing face of educational services throughout Australia at present, the challenges to our profession are varied. The challenge to our professionals is to expand to handle them. One way we can do this is to contribute to the body of knowledge that guides our members – support your local journal!

Happy reading.

John Carroll