

## Editorial Comments

Welcome to Vol. 27 (1) of our *Journal*. We are delighted to have been able to put together, at long last, a number of papers that have as their focus taha Māori, biculturalism and different ways of relating. It is curious that our commitment to biculturalism has not managed to produce an accompanying strong body of Māori or bicultural research. This may say something about the research paradigm in itself. Our sense is that it also speaks volumes about the research process and the delicate matter of forging relationships across difference. It would be true to say that we, and several of our contributors, have had to work harder to bring these and similar papers to life than is normally the case with submissions on more general topics. We recognise the extra effort this has entailed, and appreciate the time taken by all involved, and the lengths some of our contributors have gone to in order to ensure full consultation occurred.

Knowing how to go forward becomes the theme of this issue. The various contributions invite us to consider different ways of relating – across cultures, across electronic spaces and through reflective stories. We are delighted to begin with an introductory piece written specially for this *Journal* by Mason Durie, who has been such an influential voice in our profession over the years. His vision has inspired and sustained many of us as we work toward partnership and improved relationship. We appreciate the time he has taken and hope his piece sets the tone for the rest of the issue.

So we begin with ‘Counselling Māori: Marae encounters as a basis for understanding and building relationships’. Durie writes, ‘the contention is that marae encounters are primarily about negotiating relationships within a context of kawa, a way of doing things, that has both historic and contemporary significance’. The perspective he presents extends the traditional fundamental concept of the primacy of the counselling relationship beyond the tight twosome.

Nick Drury’s first paper, ‘A pōwhiri poutama approach to therapy’, considers how therapists might better meet their Treaty obligations through a process of collaborative therapy. He explores the possibilities of ‘performance knowledge’, drawing threads between the pōwhiri poutama approach and narrative approaches. Here therapy is viewed as a rite of passage that has many similarities with the pōwhiri encounter. In the following paper Drury presents an ultra-brief, user-friendly outcome tool designed for client use. This aims to address the requirement for cultural safety by giving

clients, rather than therapists, a tool with which to assess the quality and progress of the counselling service.

Steve Lang and Kahuwaero Katene take biculturalism into the field of ethics in 'Tikanga and ethics: A dialogical encounter of two cultures'. This innovative paper follows the conversation between two practitioners, one Māori and one Pākehā, as they seek to bring together the two ethical discourses identified in 'tikanga' and 'ethics'. In so doing they present a resultant bicultural code that they say is 'typified by doing'.

While the next two papers do not take taha Māori as their focus, they nevertheless extend the concept of relationship in other directions. Jeannie Wright considers the challenges posed and possibilities offered by the increasing use of computer-mediated communication. In 'Online text-based counselling: Reflections of a technophobe', she gives a brief personal account of her involvement in this innovative milieu, linking this to some recent empirical studies and concluding that the potential of online counselling certainly deserves further investigation.

In our final paper, 'Shaping supervision practice through research: Effects of supervision for counselling practice', Kathie Crocket, Stephen Gaddis, Caroline Day, Vivianne Flintoff, Marianne Lammers, Pam Malcolm, Debbie McLachlan, Helga Overdyck, Titihuia Rewita, Val Riches, Jan Rodwell and Ellie Schoffelmeer engage in an innovative form of reflective practice that takes individual reflections into new, multiple spaces. The team of researchers set out to investigate the links between effective supervision and effective counselling. This is an under-researched and important area for study. The paper provides some valuable insights while inviting readers to continue their own reflections, 'in the interests of continuing to generate knowledge to shape practice'.

We are very aware that the task of reviewing submissions is often a challenging and time-consuming process. These papers have all had close scrutiny and thoughtful feedback. We wish to thank and acknowledge the input of the reviewers for this issue: Richard Cook, Alistair Crocket, Steve Lang, Kathie Love, Eric Medcalf, Margaret Nelson Agee, Sue Sewell and Jeannie Wright.

As we are coming to the end of our editorial term and reviewing the progress we have made, we see this issue as significant in terms of the *Journal's* development. We hope you enjoy reading it.

**Sue Cornforth**

**Fran Parkin**

**Editors**