

EDITORIAL

Within this volume are two issues, the first of which contains four articles that were first presented as papers in July at the 1996 NZAC Conference at Havelock North. First, Elizabeth Brooke-Carr discusses the part that the AIDS Memorial Quilt plays in the process of mourning the death of a loved one from HIV/AIDS related illnesses. Existential issues are the topic of David Simpson's article, which explores the ways these might be handled in counselling. A number of NZAC members who are Family Court counsellors will find the next article, by Jenny Bunce, particularly relevant to their work. Its theme is making the process of writing a Family Court Counselling Report a therapeutic one, and an example of "literate means to therapeutic ends". Pauline Templeman then explores a different theme again in describing the experiences of employees who have been affected by restructuring, and the stressful impact that this process has had on their lives. Finally, the first issue ends with an article by Bob Manthei in the Brief Reports section that challenges counsellors and supervisors to consider some aspects of counselling supervision that seem to be overlooked.

The second issue opens with two articles that address professional issues. The first by Judi Miller, provides an account of the history of NZAC's development and changes as they are recorded in the Newsletters over time. This article provides a timely historical overview from this perspective, given the changes that NZAC members are currently considering. Counsellors within the Association who are involved in the careers area will find Ruth Anderson's discussion of professional and ethical issues for career practitioners relevant to their professional roles.

Different groups within the community are then considered in the next three articles. Margaret Taurere and Margaret Agee describe a study of the helping and counselling preferences of Maori students, and they discuss the selective ways in which Maori students choose helpers from both their whanau and the professions. Margaret Mourant, identifying as an older person herself and writing from the perspective of many years' experience in the counselling field, raises issues for younger counsellors to consider in meeting the needs of older clients. Marianne Lammers discusses the findings of a qualitative study of the meaning and value of friendships for women who have been in abusive relationships. Finally in this issue, James Arkwright reviews the book, *Counselling in disability and illness*.

This is the last time that we introduce the Journal as editorial team, and it presents an opportunity to summarise the developments which have taken place for the Journal since 1991, when we took on its editorship. During this time it has been an exciting privilege to witness the development of NZAC into an organisation of significant professional stature on the national scene. Its membership has increased, its constitution has been developed, and it now speaks with considerable authority on many issues of community importance. It is very fitting that the Journal has improved its stature in similar fashion.

The change in title from "The New Zealand Counselling and Guidance Association Journal" to the present one illustrates its development from an in-house journal to one which seeks to represent profession-wide developments in policy and practice. The change in Guidelines for Contributors and the introduction of an independent review of all articles prior to acceptance for publication has ensured that all those that appear are of a high professional standard - even if they do not represent the views of the editors! We are deeply indebted to those colleagues who have given freely of their time to act as referees for the Journal. The formation of an Editorial Board has broadened the basis for policy-making for the Journal, and allowed closer support for contributors from different regions. The Editorial Board's contribution as policy guardians is invaluable. The change to a two-column layout, and the changes in general format have made the Journal's appearance more consistent with others of international standing.

Throughout the last six years of change, the National Executive has been highly supportive of moves to professionalise the Journal, and has provided financial support to sustain the increased level of technical resources required. Nevertheless, Executive have continued to require appropriate accountability to the Association which "owns" the Journal as one of its major voices in the public arena.

Several further developments beckon. Our wish to have two separate issues published each year has been partially successful, and awaits the build-up of sufficient submissions throughout the year - an ambitious goal, considering the limited size of the contributing population. We look forward to a wider subscription basis of the Journal as its contents address issues of relevance to other professional groups. And we welcome the appearance of Special Issues centred around a common theme, with the first of these possible in the near future. As we hand over the editorial role to Gary Hermansson, Sue Webb, Kathy Love and Diana Bloor, we wish them well and look forward to the Journal's continued expansion as a voice for the counselling profession.

Hans Everts and Margaret Nelson Agee