EDITORIAL

This issue begins with a discussion of the somewhat problematic relationship between counselling research and practice. If our practice is to be soundly based, then the importance of this relationship needs to be acknowledged by both practitioners and researchers. We are challenged to engage with one another in more committed and creative ways.

The following articles reflect quite different but significant themes relevant to different aspects of counselling practice. As the needs of Pacific Island clients have received little attention in the counselling literature, it is timely that we are able to include an article that reports a survey of the views and experiences of Samoan adolescent girls in an Auckland secondary school.

People with intellectual handicaps are another group whose needs have not been addressed in the counselling literature. The potential for effective counselling practice with this clientele has largely remained unacknowledged, and little has so far been done to assist counsellors adapt or develop appropriate skills. We trust this article will open up this important area and encourage other counsellors working in this field to help resource one another by writing about the approaches they find effective.

The fourth article in this issue examines a widely used occupational preference test from a contemporary perspective. A new development for the Journal is the inclusion of a response to points raised in the article. In future issues we want to encourage further dialogue of this kind, through immediate responses to articles, letters to the editor, and the publication of articles that develop themes from previous issues.

The books reviewed in this issue are recent publications in the field of relationships and family therapy. We are mindful of the increasing diversity of our membership, and see it as important that both articles and reviews reflect the variety of interests of our members. We would encourage members to contribute reviews of any newly published books that make a significant contribution to their particular area of counselling.

As we have done in previous issues, we once again urge members to submit articles for publication that reflect the many exciting developments occurring in counselling practice and the new insights and further questions being raised by current counselling research. Our Journal has an important role to maintain and develop further, in representing the cutting edge of professional counselling in New Zealand.

The Editors.