Dear readers,

I am writing this editorial still riding a wave of inspiration generated during a recent ‘Weaving together the strands of supervision’ conference held in Auckland in July. I am still riding a wave of inspiration ignited during the conference. It was delightful to see social workers taking the lead in such an important topic and weaving ideas together with a growing number of other professionals who increasingly see the importance of supervision. This edition of the Social Work Review reflects this interweaving and, if read as a whole, reminds us of how contributions from various professionals who are involved in the field of social work are actually all connected and offer valuable knowledge to one another.

This spring edition is presented in three sections: critical issues and debates, good practice and book reviews.

We are delighted to publish a paper presented at the supervision conference by Kieran O'Donoghe, which critically examines cross-disciplinary supervision, a topic that was so pertinent during the conference. Kieran’s contribution offers some very valuable guidelines for supervisors and supervisees who find themselves in cross-disciplinary relationships.

Marie Conolly brings us valuable research on convening family group conferences, a model that originated in Aotearoa New Zealand and is gaining a lot of interest overseas because of its relevance for socially-just decision making related to family issues.

Continuing in the family tone, Jill Worrall’s contribution relates to the issues and challenges of placing an at-risk child, including the importance of assessment of caregivers, preparation and ongoing support, with special emphasis on kinship care.

Phillip Mendes brings us a comparative study of press reporting about the prostitution debate, and although it is coming from Australia, there are some important parallels for New Zealand. Issues of harm minimisation versus zero tolerance are relevant not only to the prostitution debate but also to illicit drug use. Your reflections and links with New Zealand issues would be most appreciated.

The article on defensive social work by Pam Smith (‘Defensive Social Work – Square Peg – Round Hole’) offers a critical analysis of CYFS practices, together with some creative suggestions. We would welcome a further debate from you on this hot issue. We believe that a frank, respectful and non-defensive discussion on the topic would result in benefits for workers, managers, clients and the organisation CYFS itself and that only through open discussion can we find some creative solutions to some of the most difficult problems in our society.

Love Chile writes about his lifelong passion – community development. This article outlines what constitutes community development, but also critically analyses the nature of community development and offers a valuable framework for the creation of community well-being applicable across the world.

Another article on good practice is Sandy Gibbard’s ‘Restorative conferencing in schools’. This is a valuable contribution to interdisciplinary collaboration and how education and social work can go hand-in-hand to prevent violence.

Vaughan Milner writes about foodbanks and focuses on a practice model, which delivers social services based on respect, empathy, curiosity and time, strongly anchored in the quality of relationships and committed to social justice.

We also have four interesting book reviews, which we hope will inspire you to read (or write) more. The first one examines Kieran O’Donogue’s Restoring Social Work Supervision, while the second relates to Making a Difference in Families: Research that Creates Change, edited by Robyn Munford and Jackie Saunders. The third reviews Interaction in Multidisciplinary Teams, by William Housley, and the fourth reflects on Resilience and Vulnerability – Adaptation in the Context of Childhood Adversities. All four books relate well to the topics that we brought to you in this
We invite you to write more, to respond to articles published in this journal and to share your good practices, critical views and even the not so pleasant critical incidents that help provide good learning. We are looking forward to the summer Jubilee edition where we’ll reflect on the past and look at what the future may bring. We would also like to invite you to suggest themes or topics that may deserve to be thoroughly covered (like the narrative issue at the beginning of the year). Your wish is our command, so please continue contacting us.

Sincerely yours,
Ksenija Napan, Editor.