

CHILD ADOLESCENT AND FAMILY INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER July 2007

It has been a while since our last newsletter. I apologise for not getting this done earlier in the year. It has been a very busy time for me. I hope you have all been as busy. In October 2006, the interest group presented a seminar on Emotional Literacy by Rosa Bologna. I was unable to attend the October session but I understand that Rosa Bologna was very interesting. The November workshop on Domestic Violence from the victims' point of view was very well-received. Our presenter, Patricia Tierney, was very generous in leaving me with extra copies of her hand-outs and I am happy to forward these to CAFPIG members if they send me a stamped addressed A4 envelope. It will probably require a \$1 stamp. I would particularly be happy to forward these to our country members as it is difficult for them to attend the workshops in Sydney. It might be best to give me a ring before sending the envelope in case they have run out.

- Our AGM followed the November seminar and we only just made a quorum so that we could conduct the meeting. The meeting was short (as are all our meetings if you would like to participate). The following were elected to the committee for 2007:

Dianne Starkey	Convenor
June Wayne	Secretary
Marita Schwendler	Treasurer
Barbara Preston	Committee member
Lyn Worsley	Committee Member
Jo Milne-Home	Webmaster

A teleconference was held on 6 December as the committee's first meeting to plan for 2007. Based on the responses to our survey, the availability of committee members and the convenience of our country members it was decided that seminars would continue to be on Fridays. It was also decided that the venues will be alternated to some degree to respond to the request of members in the west, as well as using the Children's Commission which suits country members as it is close to Central railway station.

- Other suggestions made by members who responded to the survey were related to the dissemination of information from seminars for members who are unable to attend. Some possible alternatives are being explored by the committee and the results of this investigation will be made known to members as it is available.
- The workshop on 16 March 2007 was held at Cumberland Hospital. Val Atkinson presented on "Practical Strategies in the Treatment of Anxiety Disorders". Val's presentation was very practically oriented and she gave some very interesting handouts that are useful for giving to clients to explain the process and to give them tips about handling issues that arise for people suffering from anxiety disorders.
- Our May workshop on the treatment of children who have been victims of domestic violence had to be postponed. Due to late notice, we did not get enough participants to register in time. This workshop will go ahead later in the year.

▪ **OUR NEXT SEMINAR**

Date: **27 July 2007**

Venue: **Children's Commission, 407 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills (just up from Central Station).**

Presenter: **David Harding.** David is a very experienced Clinical Psychologist. David has presented for the interest group in the past and has been very well-received for his practical approach to therapeutic interventions.

Topic: **"Tactics and Techniques in Treating 'Acting-out' Children".**

Cost: \$25 for non-member, \$20 CAFPIG Member and \$15 student

▪ **AUGUST WORKSHOP**

TOPIC: Overcoming the effects of Domestic Violence on Children. This workshop provides an opportunity for workers in therapeutic, welfare and educational contexts to gain knowledge and skills to assist children to resolve the effects of domestic violence. The Yarramundi Kids puppets will present throughout the day to entertain and educate participants about a child's eye view of family life. The workshop draws on "CREATING THE FUTURE", a resource package for children and families affected by domestic violence and child abuse. The stories and activity workbooks provide a flexible approach to working with 5-12 year old children, parents and extended family members in one-off presentations or as a series of sessions conducted over a number of weeks.

PRESENTER: Chris Burke has worked with children and families for over 30 years in a number of different roles including teacher, women's refuge worker, child sexual assault counsellor, community educator, puppeteer, as well as program designer and manager. Chris is a master puppeteer and the Creative Director of the national award winning Jannawi Kids* (1994–2005) and the fabulous new Yarramundi Kids puppets. As Founding Director of Jannawi Family Centre (1990 - 2004), Chris pioneered the development of this unique child protection service in Sydney.

VENUE: College of Nursing, 14 Railway Parade, Burwood

DATE: Friday 31 August 2007

TIME: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

COST: \$125 for non-members, \$110 fro CAFPIG members and \$50 for students.

(BOOKINGS AND ADVANCE PAYMENT ESSENTIAL AS THERE ARE LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE)

NB Chris will take orders for resource packages on the day and will offer a 15% discount for attendees of the workshop. You might like to look at her website

www.gracieproductions.com.au

- **On 16 November 2007**, there will be a seminar from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Children's Commission, 407 Elizabeth St, Surry Hills. The speaker will be **Dr Joan Haliburn**, Adolescent and Family Psychiatrist who will talk on the use of **medication in the treatment of behavioural and affective disorder in children and adolescents.** Following the seminar there will be the interest group's **AGM** and after the AGM a **dinner at a local restaurant** to celebrate the end of the year.

BOOKINGS or enquiries for the above workshops should be directed to Dianne Starkey on 9636 4397 or email at star_key @bigpond.net.au. Registrations with payment (cheque made out to the **Australian Psychological Society**) should be forwarded to Dianne Starkey, Convenor, Child Adolescent and Family Interest Group, APS, at 2 Saxon Place, Wentworthville 2145.

INTEREST GROUP COMMITTEE: The interest group committee is desperately in need of new members. I will not be able to continue as convenor because of personal reasons after the November AGM, but I would be happy to offer my support to someone who is interested in taking on this or any other position on the committee. I have enjoyed the position and have gained a lot of knowledge and experience in new areas. I would recommend it to any of you and I am happy to discuss the committee with anyone interested, prior to the AGM. We have over 400 members in New South Wales so I know there are a few of you out there who would be able to spend a small amount of time every couple of months to continue the work of the interest group. I have met some wonderful people through my involvement with the committee: speakers who are fascinating and intellectually stimulating, other CAFPIG members who also have a lot to offer from their experience and knowledge, and the fabulous people who have been on the committee in the 5 or 6 years I have been involved. I recommend it to you all. It would especially be great to get some members involved who work in different areas such as neuropsych, educational psych and so forth, as the majority of committee members are of clinical bent and we need someone to assist us in knowing what seminars would be valuable to members involved in other aspects of our profession. Give some thought to volunteering to participate at the AGM in November. The Interest Group is only going to survive if people show interest!!

OTHER INFORMATION

The Education Centre Against Violence has sent me a copy of their 2007 training courses. I will include brief info in the newsletter. If you are interested, their website is www.ecav@health.nsw.gov.au and the email address is ecav@wsahs.nsw.gov.au. There are a large number of very interesting sounding courses throughout the year covering such topics as Working with Adults Sexually Abused as Children; NSW Domestic Violence Aboriginal Core Training; Implementing Sexual Safety in Mental Health Inpatient Units; Working with Substance Using Parents and Child Protection; Child Sexual Assault for Aboriginal Workers; Practical Skills in responding to People who Experience Domestic Violence; Childhood Trauma and Neglect; Interpersonal Trauma, Suicidality & Cultural Diversity; Responding to Lesbians and Gay Men Who Experience Domestic Violence; Identifying and Responding to Children & Young People at Risk of Harm; and Developing Skills in Report Writing and Giving Evidence.

Dianne Starkey
NSW Convenor
CAFPIG, APS