

Editorial:

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With the holidays fast approaching and the year winding to a close, the Editorial team would like to welcome you to the second and final issue of *The Australian Community Psychologist* for 2014. Perhaps fitting, this final issue for 2014 also sadly brings to a conclusion the long standing contribution of Lauren Breen as Editor of the Journal. Since taking up the post in 2008, Lauren has overseen the production of 11 issues of ACP, including 7 special issues/sections and during her very capable stewardship, has effectively maintained the highest of standards, ensuring both the quality of the content as well as the professionalism of the process.

While numerous authors have benefited from Lauren's experience as Editor, there have been none more so than the many students whom Lauren has so generously supported, mentored and guided through the publication process (see Ali & Sonn, 2009; Beavington, 2011; Darlaston-Jones, 2011; Jackson & Kim, 2009; Kirk, 2009; Mackellar, 2009; Marlow, 2009; Mander & Fieldhouse, 2009; Munroe & Pooley, 2009; Owen, 2011; Pember, 2009; Qualyle & Sonn, 2009; Sifandos, 2011), helping them to fine tune their contributions for the Journal. So, it is with much gratitude as we step in as the new Co-Editors of the Journal, that we extend our appreciation to Lauren for her continued work to make ACP a flagship for Community Psychology knowledge in Australia. We wish her all the very best with her new appointment as Associate Editor for *Australian Psychologist* and would particularly like to acknowledge and thank her for undertaking the majority of the management of the current issue prior to the formal handover at the very tail end of the process.

Finally, we would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lauren on recently being awarded joint recipient, with Dr Sasha Stumpers, of the 2013 Robin Winkler Award for her project *Establishing a sustainable road trauma support service in Western Australia: A community-based*

research partnership for change. Honouring the pioneering work of the late Robin Winkler (1945-1988) the award recognises excellence in a project in the field of Community Psychology and both recipients' projects were deemed to have reflected extensive community engagement, real-world applications, as well as the dissemination of the findings both within and beyond the academy. In particular Lauren's project was acknowledged as one that "exemplified the aims of the award and indeed the legacy of Robin Winkler in terms of detail, scholarship, and outcomes" (personal communication, selection committee, 2014).

We would also like to formally acknowledge Dr Sasha Stumpers as the other joint recipient of the Robin Winkler award. Sasha, who sadly passed away in September 2012 following submission and later conferral of her PhD, was posthumously recognised for her outstanding doctoral research project, *An exploration of the experience and social construction of ageing: Perspectives from older adults in a healthy ageing program and those from Western Australian and Welsh communities*.

Sasha's work and engagement with the field of psychology and ageing was deemed as going "beyond the level that is normally expected of a doctoral student" (personal communication, selection committee, 2014) and bestowal of the award was seen as a way of ensuring the research was appropriately recognised. In particular, and as part of this achievement, in 2009 during her PhD candidature Sasha secured one of 25 places to attend an Emerging Researcher in Ageing (ERA) Masterclass held at the University of QLD, as well as becoming the recipient of an ERA initiative and ARC/NHMRC Research Network in Ageing Well grant to the value of \$9,200. The grant provided Sasha with the opportunity to participate in a six week International Exchange program at Swansea University (Wales, UK) where she was not only able to collect international data for her doctoral project but was also accepted to present at the 2009 Annual British Society for

Gerontology conference in Cardiff. Sasha's passing is a great loss to the field of Community Psychology in Australia, particularly the close knit community in Western Australia and she is very sadly missed. To honour Sasha's life and commitment to the field a special section will be included in the first issue of 2015 to showcase her outstanding work and achievements.

In this final general issue for 2014 we bring together six papers, five from around Australia, one internationally, as well as one book review. The first paper by Nigar Kawaja and Philip Lathopolous, examines the practices and strategies that practitioners found helpful when working with CALD clients in Australia. The authors identified that having sound clinical skills and self awareness were more important to culturally competent therapeutic relationships than the need for extensive cultural knowledge prior to initial contact. The second paper by Lester Watson and Rachel Fox, takes a look at the experiences of young people acting as primary carers for family members living with physical or mental health problems. Challenging many of the assumptions underpinning the dominant 'negative' paradigm associated with this often voiceless group, the authors identified that most were positive about their roles, their family relationships, and their futures. While they faced many challenges, the negative public discourse associated with disability and illness and the problematic constructions of the 'normal' young person and carer unnecessarily added to these difficulties.

In the following paper, Daria Trzepacz, Bernard Guerin and Jared Thomas provide an interesting examination of the connection between a positive attachment to country by a South Australian Indigenous community and the benefits associated for both the treatment and prevention of both physical and mental health issues. Next Carl Walker, Paul Hanna, Liz Cunningham and Peter Ambrose contribute to the critical community psychology conversation about the recent changes made to the United Kingdom (UK) mainstream credit industry that has seen an

increasing number of people locked in to revolving debt. Contextualised within a series of social, political, and economic transformations, Walker suggests that the industry has developed the use of affective relations as central to the management of these individuals.

Paper five by Kaine Grigg and Lenore Manderson reports on the validation of a newly created instrument that aims to measure racism with a view to reducing its impact in Australian primary schools. In the final paper, Rachel Brand, Jennifer Loh and Andrew Guilfoyle explore the experiences of young female African refugees during the transitional phases of resettlement and acculturation in Western Australia. Finding that while these young women indicated some unique challenges due to age and gender, many of them remained resilient as a result of a number of protective factors. Finally, Majid Hussain provides a review of Paul Thomas' book *Youth, multiculturalism and community cohesion*

We hope that you enjoy the papers presented in this issue and we look forward to receiving submissions in the coming year.

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