

Editorial

Dear members and readers,

We are pleased to introduce the second issue for 2013. As promised, in this issue we include the remaining accepted papers from the successful Australian Association of Social Work and Welfare Educators (AASWWE) Symposium held on 27th –28th September 2012, at Magill Campus, University of South Australia, Adelaide. The theme of that conference was ‘Cultural diversity: social work and human services education: Working with difference. In this issue we also feature several thought-provoking articles relevant to social work and welfare education for your reading and reflection, a student’s vision for practice and three book reviews.

In the first article, Michael Webster describes online learning and how a course for frontline managers became a virtual community of practice. This author identifies the benefits, barriers and success factors. In the next article, Susan Gair highlights that while empathy and non-judgmental helping are familiar concepts in social work education and practice, more proactive engagement with students is needed. Next, Chris Horsell discusses homelessness, social policy and difference, also focusing on inclusion and exclusion discourse, while Sue King, in the following article, discusses the challenges of inclusivity for students with a criminal history.

The final three papers look at aspects of social work education, with Kerry Brydon and Dunstan Lawihin reporting on a small research project that was conducted to review the current situation in social work education in Papua New Guinea, Catherine Flynn and Kerry Brydon describing how they sought to elicit student views on knowledge development in a social work Honours program, and Natasha Long and Rob Townsend present the narratives of twelve participants who shared their experiences of returning to study as mature-age men. In an innovative new section “New Voices” we present ‘A vision for practice’ by Karen Woodley.

Finally, we have three book reviews for your enjoyment.

Happy reading- and remember we would love to hear from you about research you are undertaking that informs your teaching and learning, and practice that can inform and improve social work education and inspire social work students. We are calling for papers for our next issue for 2014 so please forward your next innovative manuscript to us. We look forward to receiving papers from the many excellent presenters at the recent highly

successful symposium in Perth early in October, 2013. Please note we have amended Author Guidelines on our website for your next submission to Advances, and we are requesting that authors adhere closely to these guidelines in all future manuscript submissions.

Susan Gair
and **Liz Beddoe**