

**BSW SINGAPORE  
NEWSLETTER  
SEMESTER 1, 2007**

Two major events occurred in the latter half of 2006. The first was the graduation ceremony in September 2006, our first graduates formally receiving their degrees. The occasion was held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. We were pleased to have representatives from the Singapore Association of Social Workers, MCYS, Board of Studies and the tutors, as well as SSTI staff and the family members of the graduates, present at the occasion. The graduates all looked wonderful and were justifiably proud of their achievements.

As part of attending the graduation, Kerry Brydon attended a Singapore Monash Alumni meeting and function. All students, upon graduation, automatically become members of the Monash Alumni Association but need to specifically join the Singapore branch. Details are on the Monash website and it is a good way of keeping up your association with Monash after graduation.

The other major event of semester 2 was the accreditation process. After much planning throughout 2006, the Australian Association of Social Workers accreditation panel made a visit to Singapore in early November. Although the process is not complete the panel has advised that they will be recommending that full accreditation of the BSW Singapore be granted.

Such an event, as accreditation, does not just 'happen'. SSTI put in an enormous amount of effort and we must thank Bee Heong, Ling Ling, Susan, Peiyi and May in particular. We are also deeply appreciative of the way that tutors, field supervisors, Ministry staff, tutors, field supervisors and students (both current and past) made their time available to the accreditation panel. We will let you know once accreditation is finalized.

The bridging units were held in October 2006 and we welcome our new students into the BSW from February 2007.

Our staff at Monash have had a busy time in 2006. On the publications front we have achieved:

Brown, Thea & Alexander, Renata (2007), *Child Abuse and Family Law*, Allen & Unwin. The book has been described by Alistair Nicholson, former Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia, 'brave and challenging'. It has also been described as 'ground breaking, comprehensive and challenging' by Professor Freda Briggs.

Thea Brown has two chapters in the bok edited by Jamilah Ariffin *Facing Up to Global Challenges: Building Resilient Families and Caring Communities*, APFAM Malaysia December 2006. Thea has written a chapter '*Child Abuse and Domestic Violence in the*

*Context of Parental Separation and Divorce*, in Cathy Humphreys & Nicky Stanley (eds.) *Domestic Violence and Child Protection*, London: Jessica Kingsley.

Chris Trotters book *Working with Involuntary Clients*, was published in its second edition in April 2006. This is the biggest selling text in the world on working with involuntary clients and is currently being translated into Chinese and Japanese for publication in these countries.

Philip Mendes has written *Inside the Welfare Lobby: A History of the Australian Council of Social Services*, published by Sussex Academic Press, Brighton, in 2006.

As well Philip has an article 'Welfare Lobby Groups Responding to Globalisation', *International Social Work*, 49(6), 693 – 704. Philip also has an article due to be published in February 2007 in the *Journal of Progressive Human Services*, titled 'Social Workers and Social Activism in Victoria, Australia'.

Max Liddell, Teresa Donegan, Chris Goddard & Joe Tucci have published a report *The State of Child Protection: Australian Child Welfare and Child Protection Developments 2005*. This report has been a joint initiative between the Australian Childhood Foundation, the National Research Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Monash University. This report (copies are in the SSTI library) is the first annual report into the state of child protection in Australia, and critically examines child protection policy and legislation in Australia. The report seeks to contribute to the national debate about child protection that children deserve.

*The Truth is Longer Than a Lie*, written by Dr Neerosh Mudaly and Professor Chris Goddard, was launched in May 2006. This book, published by Jessica Kingsley, profiles the child's perspective on the experience of child abuse and neglect. The book outlines how children make meaning of their experiences of abuse and offer feedback about the systems designed to protect them.

Whenever staff publishes a book or major report, every effort is made to ensure that a copy gets into the SSTI library. At some stage during 2007 you should be able to access these references if they are not already there.

Our other development at Social Work has been that we welcome Marija Dragic to the Department and to the Fieldwork team. Marija will be developing the fieldwork programme offered as part of our BHSc/BSW offered from the Peninsula Campus.

Planning has occurred throughout 2006 to introduce the Honours programme into the BSW Singapore from 2007. Many of you will already be aware of this and we are pleased to be able to move to this programme. Honours is taught as part of final year and entails students undertaking additional subjects as well as preparing a thesis. No doubt we will face some 'hiccups' with this new programme however we are confident that all will go well.

Planning has also been underway to develop further offerings into our Singapore programme. We anticipate offering a Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Supervision from 2008 and a Masters of Social Work from 2009. We will keep you posted on these developments and hope that at some future stage in your careers you will join us in post graduate studies.

The February workshops will be held on Friday February 2 through to Sunday February 4, the additional day being to allow presentation of skills classes. All students are reminded that attendance at the workshops is compulsory and any exemptions should be cleared with the Kerry Brydon in advance of the workshops. Students are also reminded that there needs to be exceptional circumstances to allow exemption from the workshops and students can only miss one workshop throughout their course of studies.

In closing, we wish you well with your studies in 2007. For students returning to the course we will be pleased to see you. For students joining the course we of course warmly welcome you.