

## Coming Events, Jottings and Announcements

- © **3–6 September 2006, the 27th Annual Australian Family Therapy Conference, *Hallowed Turf: Common Ground: What's Unique, What's Shared***, at Melbourne's Hilton on the Park, overlapping with the Gestalt Association (GANZ) conference on the third day. For more information contact Pam Richards (enquiry@prcc.com.au).
- © **Sincere thanks to QAFT, who last September sent the *ANZJFT* \$4500.00 as income/profit from the 2004 Family Therapy Conference in Brisbane.** The *ANZJFT* banner is displayed at all conferences, announcing that the conference is 'proudly co-sponsored by the *ANZJFT*'. The journal offers a loan to assist the state association with initial expenses, and executive and editors supply addresses and information on request.
- © **Helen Winefield and Anna Chur-Hansen** outline South Australian experience of 'Integrating Psychologists into Primary Mental Health Care in Australia' (*Families, Systems & Health*, 22, 3: 294–305). The authors comment that 'with the possible exception of family psychoeducation approaches, family-oriented interventions have been insufficiently tested ... and thus lack a comprehensive evidence base for their effectiveness' (298). Have we shot ourselves in the foot once again!
- © **Fred P. Piercy et al.** ('Doctoral Students' Experiences of Family Therapy Research Training' in *Family Process*, 44, 3: 363–378) claim 'MFT [i.e. Marriage and Family Therapy] students are inadvertently steered toward becoming specialists in non-MFT topics and in disciplines other than their own' (364). Does that seem familiar?
- © **Local anecdotal evidence describes** success for Anglo therapists in working with clients from other cultures, while Just Therapy insists on cultural matching. Schoenwald, Halliday-Boykins & Henggeler comment 'Research on therapist ethnicity and therapist-client match has included few outcome studies, and the results of these are mixed regarding the demonstration of an effect of ethnic matching' (355). Schoenwald et al.'s paper is 'Client-level Predictors of Adherence to MST in Community Service Settings', *Family Process*, 42, 3: 345–359.
- © **Carolyn Richardson's outcome study** of the effectiveness of systems-based family therapy with older clients ('Family Therapy Outcomes') appears in *Context* 77, February 2005: 46–48. In this study, clients had family therapy treatment, or Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy, or Psychodynamic Psychotherapy. 'Before treatment, there were significant differences between patients referred to the therapy groups, such that people taken on by the CBT service reported less psychological disturbance than those referred to either the FT or PP services. After treatment, levels of functioning and symptomatic distress did not differ between the three types of therapy' (47).
- © **Ivan Eisler (on p. 126 of 'The Empirical and Theoretical Base of Family Therapy and Multiple Family Day Therapy for Adolescent Anorexia Nervosa'**, *Journal of Family Therapy*, 27, 2 (2005): 104–131) concludes that 'studies of expressed emotion in eating disorders have shown that while most families are low in criticism or hostility [...] the small number [that] are critical are precisely those who either do not engage well in family therapy [...] or, if they do, tend to have a poorer outcome'.
- © **'While considering the actual financial cost per patient** we have found that MFT [multi-family therapy] costs only 25% of the average cost of inpatient care — even in the very severe spectrum of patients suffering from AN [anorexia nervosa]' (140). This is the advice of M. Scholz, M. Rix, K. Scholz, K. Gantchev and V. Thömke, expressed in 'Multiple Family Therapy for Anorexia Nervosa: Concepts, Experiences and Results', *Journal of Family Therapy*, 27, 2 (2005): 132–141.
- © **Jan Cox, in Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care' (*Context*, 78 (2005): 14–17,** describes the effort of naturalising in the UK the MTFC program developed by the Oregon Social Learning Centre in Eugene, USA. The program is 'well researched' with 'two decades of evidence that illustrate the success of this approach in cost effectiveness, violence prevention ...' Jan describes the experience of translating the US behavioural program faithfully, yet incorporating current systemic ideas, as working 'first-order with a second-order mind'.
- © **Kim Leon and Deborah B. Jacobvitz** examine the 'Relationships between Adult Attachment and Family Ritual Quality: A Prospective, Longitudinal Study', *Family Process*, 42, 3: 419–432. The authors hope their study will assist therapists who perceive the need for a client family's ritual practices to be modified in a positive direction.
- © **The Award for Distinguished Service to Family Therapy in Australia and New Zealand** went to Carmel Flaskas in 2005. Carmel has been a long-serving member of the Board, a hard-working President, author of many articles, and frequent plenary speaker locally and abroad. And she's kind and cheerful! Since 1994, the Award has gone to Margaret Topham and Moshe Lang, The Family Centre, Lower Hutt, Aotearoa/New Zealand, The Bouverie Centre, Melbourne, Colleen Brown, Max Cornwell, Kerrie James, VAFT, Brian Stagoll, David Epston, Anne Sved-Williams, and QAFT. (Malcolm Robinson was awarded the 25th Anniversary Award.)