

## NETWORK NEWS

### Commentary, News and Reports from Regional and International Correspondents

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#### **End of an Era for State Correspondents in Network News**

Network News used to account for a steady ten to twelve pages of the *ANZJFT*. In planning the layout of each issue, we have continued to set aside ten pages, but since we became editors, we have never had more than eight pages in Network News, and often much less. The long lead time that the *Journal* has had in the time it has been published in the UK made new difficulties for state correspondents. If they reported on a workshop which had already happened one month before, the events would be six months old when the relevant *Journal* issue came out. They could no longer submit a report in May, which spoke of local excitement about a conference coming in two months' time; if they mentioned it at all, it had to be written about as if it had happened already.

The family therapy world in which Network News began has changed dramatically. New Zealand last sent a report in 1990, and as associations have folded in WA and in the Hunter, we have noticed that our remaining state correspondents seem more and more to be overwhelmed by the workloads they are carrying in their daily lives. In this context, and in a workplace where family therapy is being increasingly squeezed, reports have been far less frequent.

We as editors have long been concerned about the health of Network News. At the Conference in Canberra this July, the Board opinion was that it was time to end the regular reports by state correspondents. However, as one door closes, another opens: opportunities now exist for state associations to have their own presence on the *ANZJFT* website ([www.anzjft.com](http://www.anzjft.com)), and discussions have occurred with Online Editor, Bruce Hart ([bhart@ihug.com.au](mailto:bhart@ihug.com.au)), about these possibilities.

We are grateful to Network News Coordinator, Jane Chapman, for her effort to keep the state correspondents in touch with one another. Jane has been Network News Coordinator since the March issue of 1993 (succeeding Heather Hayes and Catherine Sanders). We farewell her from this role, and also say farewell and thanks to the last of the state correspondents: Akivra Bouris (NSW), Janet Roth (Queensland), Liz Mackenzie (SA), Margaret Stoklosa (Tasmania), Adrienne Wills (WA) and Maria McCarthy (Victoria). They have struggled with a task that had come to seem more difficult and less relevant. We hope their names will appear in the *Journal* in future, in other capacities.

**MAUREEN AND HUGH CRAGO** (Editors)