



**4th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Infant Mental Health (IAIMH)**

*A Report by Keryl Egan*

This recent biennial conference was held on the campus of the University of Michigan in the picturesque university town of Ann Arbor which is situated a few kilometres from Detroit, Michigan. The campus buildings of Ann Arbor have a grandeur which is impressive and in the Michigan League, where the

**From the Editor**

The 4th Biennial Conference of the IAIMH in Ann Arbor, USA, last September provided a great opportunity for Keryl Egan, Margaret Nicol and myself to make contact with our 'Mother' organisation (see above report). It was interesting to personally meet many of the people who we have so far known only through letters or publications. The conference had a unique atmosphere because most of the participants seemed to know each other. In this situation coming from Australia one could easily have felt like an outsider, but this was not the case. We were welcomed warmly into this family of infant mental health specialists. Since then we have continued correspondence as you can see in the interesting letter from Paul Shaheen about the role of a professional lobbyist for infant mental health work (see page 5).

I hope to be able to provide you with further valuable information from the USA in future newsletters.

*Renate Barth*

conference was held, there is a strange mixture of the old world establishment and early twentieth century feminism. This was apparently originally a women's university.

In keeping with this, the participants in the conference, who numbered around 250, were mainly women although there was a larger number of men than one might expect at a similar conference here in Australia. This distribution of the sexes might be expected given that the central thrust of this biennial conference is towards ongoing clinical practice with mothers/parents and their babies.

The conference emerged as one of the most enjoyable and productive I have attended, with a peaceful, harmonious atmosphere and the opportunity to meet plenty of new colleagues. They were all extremely welcoming and encouraging of our efforts in Australia so that both Renate Barth and myself soon felt part of the family. This warmth and helpfulness has been followed up by people such as Michael Trout who has produced a 100 hour course on Infant Mental Health accompanied by some videos. Michael has sent a copy of the course to AAMHI so that we may develop a course here in Sydney (see page 7).

There were a number of prominent and well-known speakers and researchers such as Joy Osofsky,

Barry Lester, Joseph Campos, Leonard Rosenblum, and Alice Honig. The work presented was thorough and fascinating in its clinical detail and implications. Our own Margaret Nicol was a plenary speaker and she gave an excellent and poetic presentation on maternal grief.

Joy Osofsky's presentation was entitled "Look who's talking for baby: Therapeutic interventions with adolescent mothers and babies." This was such a striking presentation that I have chosen to elaborate on it here.

Dr Osofsky emphasised the need for creativity and ingenuity in working with these thirteen and fourteen year

*continued on page 4*

**CONTENTS**

<b>IAIMH</b>	
Report on IAIMH Conference 1	
Long Range Plan	2
News from Board Meeting	3
Letter from Lobbyist, P. Shaheen	5
INFANET	7
<b>Announcements</b>	
AAIMHI Workshop	3
Other Seminars . . .	6
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Special Thanks	7
Child and Family Health Nurses Association	8
Training in Infant Mental Health	8

# Long Range Plan of the International Association for Infant Mental Health (IAIMH)

Approved as revised September 25, 1990

## Mission Statement

Recognising that all domains of infant development as well as the family and larger environment are interactive components, and that infancy is a crucial period for psychological development, the mission of the IAIMH is to promote, provide, and encourage policies, programs, services, and research that promote optimal development of infants.

### Goal 1

**Increase public awareness of the concept of infant mental health and infant mental health issues.**

#### Objectives

- 1 Develop a media campaign to focus on issues related to infant mental health and publicise informational and training events and resources.
- 2 Establish a clearing house and resource file for the 0 – 3 clinical population, including the prenatal high risk population, and information about infant mental health clinical and training programs.
- 3 Increase public awareness of the IAIMH.
- 4 Publish a position paper on the concept of infant mental health.
- 5 Promote understanding of infant mental health issues through distribution and the use of research findings.
- 6 Communicate to Affiliates and members on a timely basis when media campaigns are to occur in order to mobilise the IAIMH network for maximum effectiveness.

### Goal 2

**Promote professional education for those who work with infants and their caregivers and promote services that optimise the development of infants.**

#### Objectives

- 1 Establish infant mental health program accreditation criteria for self-evaluation by agencies that serve infants, their families, and caregivers, including caregivers in all forms of supplemental day care of infants and young children.
- 2 Establish existing 0 – 3 programs and personnel as the base from which new programs can be developed.
- 3 Establish infant mental health certification criteria for self-evaluation by professional and university training programs.
- 4 Develop programs to help infant mental health workers cope with professional development.
- 5 Develop a speaker series/bureau in collaboration with Affiliates.

- 6 Develop training materials, tapes, and films, and a library through joint ventures with other interested agencies.

### Goal 3

**Promote education and training for primary caregivers of infants and young children.**

#### Objectives

- 1 Develop parent training seminars.
- 2 Identify, evaluate, and accredit existing parent training programs.
- 3 Promote awareness among caregivers of the concept of infant mental health.
- 4 Identify self-help groups in the infant mental health arena and facilitate their expansion of infant mental health programs.
- 5 Develop a speaker/bureau for caregivers.
- 6 Identify the unmet needs and promote the well being of caregivers.

### Goal 4

**Advocate for public policy and practice that fosters the mental health needs of infants, their families, and their caregivers.**

#### Objectives

- 1 Promote interaction with local mental health organisations or agencies providing infant mental health services.
- 2 Establish a network for communication and planned activities with other 0 – 3 advocacy organisations and agencies.
- 3 Develop an international infant mental health bill of rights.
- 4 Develop a social policy agenda including local (Affiliate), national and international issues.
- 5 Develop training in advocacy/lobbying at various levels of government to promote policies and practices that foster mental health needs of infants and their families.

*continued on page 3*

### Goal 5

## Provide for the strengthening and longevity of the IAIMH

### Objectives

- 1 Increase the number of Affiliates and IAIMH members.
- 2 Identify how the IAIMH can deliver services to its members.
- 3 Identify individuals willing to provide technical, advocacy, and legislative support to Affiliates and disseminate such information through the Newsletter and Directory.
- 4 Appoint liaison from IAIMH Board of Directors to establish communication network with other 0-3 organisations.
- 5 Increase scope of Newsletter possibly to include job listings connected with local Affiliate areas.
- 6 Increase public awareness of the IAIMH.
- 7 Provide technical and other support to Affiliates.
- 8 Identify concerns of the international Affiliates including identification of social policy issues that may be unique to a particular Affiliate.
- 9 Develop resources, including fund raising activities to meet the goal and objectives of the Long Range Plan.
- 10 Define and clarify relationships between Affiliates and the IAIMH.

## News from the IAIMH Board Meetings in Ann Arbor, Michigan (Sept. 1990)

### • Board of Directors

New officers elected were:

President: Sonya Bemporad (Texas)  
President-Elect: Alice Sterling Honig (New York)  
Secretary: Norma Ringler (Ohio)  
Treasurer: Richard Osburn (Michigan)

Hiram Fitzgerald remains Executive Director.

Keryl Egan was appointed Special Advisor to the Board of Directors.

Renate Barth was elected the Australian Representative on the Board of Directors.

### • Long-Range Plan

The Board approved the Long-Range Plan (see page 2).

### • INFANET

The Board authorised support for INFANET, a computer information and communication system (see page 7).

### • WAIPAD-IAIMH Relations

Discussions will be continued with the World Association for Infant Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines (WAIPAD) about relations between WAIPAD and IAIMH.

### • 1992 Biennial Conference

The next conference of the IAIMH will take place in Chicago, Illinois, on the three days immediately preceding WAIPAD's Fifth World Congress. Both conferences will be held in the same hotel.

## AAIMHI Workshop

### Understanding Maternal Grief

March 1, 1991, 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Workshop Leader - *Margaret Nicol*

#### BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

The main focus of this workshop will be on the development of grief counselling skills so that participants may:

- gain insight into the magnitude of the problem of maternal grief, which incorporates miscarriage, termination, stillbirth, neonatal death, cot death, the birth of a handicapped child and infertility;
- gain a psychological understanding of healthy and pathological grief reactions and those processes which hinder and support the bereaved;
- be better able to identify the needs of bereaved parents;
- explore the most effective ways of assisting the

bereaved to a healthy resolution of grief within a counselling context.

Margaret Nicol is a clinical psychologist and author of the book "Loss of a Baby: Understanding Maternal Grief".

**Venue:** YWCA, Wentworth Avenue, Darlinghurst, Sydney

**Cost:** \$95.00 (\$85.00 if registration is paid 10 days prior to workshop)

**Enquiries:** Anne Carr (02) 223 6777

**Registration:** Cheque payable to "Margaret Nicol" and mailed to AAIMHI, PO Box 39, Double Bay NSW 2028

#### 4th Biennial Conference of the IAIMH

*continued from page 1*

old mothers. These were socio-economically disadvantaged children who would tend to lose themselves in their own games with the toys provided for baby whilst the therapist was trying to teach them to respond to their infant. It was necessary to pay the mothers to come to the sessions.

The therapist tried to teach the mothers to pick up the babies' cues. Firstly the girls were allowed a free play session after which the therapist would talk for the baby whilst the young mother was interacting with her infant. The therapist would try to interpret the baby's signals of distress and tiredness, for example with words such as "Mummy, I need you to hold my head because I'm not strong enough yet." "I'm getting so tired, mummy, I need you to hold me tighter."

The effect of this kind of intervention over a five minute video was nothing short of miraculous. A young black girl with her eyes averted from her baby, gazing around the room, was clearly only aware of her baby as if it were a doll or an irritant of some kind. She jiggled the baby absent-mindedly on the edge of her knee in such a precarious fashion that the baby was in real danger of falling on the floor. To avoid this she held on to the fingers of the infant's hands but she seemed resentful about having even to do this much. As the therapist spoke however, the mother gradually glanced more often at the baby and jerkily pulled it a little closer although it was still lying in an alarmingly precarious position.

The look on the young girl's face changed from one of defiant agitation to a self-conscious interest in her child as the therapist's voice softly repeated her interpretation of the baby's feelings. Clearly tenderness, although an innate response in this girl, was not a socially familiar one and she seemed suddenly to become

very aware of the cameras. Finally however she gazed more fully at her baby and took the infant in both arms to raise her up closer to her face and body until eventually there was a real holding hug. The movements were still awkward and self-conscious as she swung her body from side to side in an attempted rocking motion but it was undoubtedly an enormous shift in response to her baby.

This was accompanied by group play with mothers and babies which was also videoed. The girls were then asked to talk for their own babies with help from the therapist whenever this became difficult and apparently this gradually led to a much greater interest in and awareness of their babies.

Other plenary sessions included a number of presentations of primate studies and one by Barry Lester on assessment and intervention with infants and families at risk.

There was much to choose from in the workshops including many on assessment and intervention strategies and techniques, and the challenges of administering an infant mental health programme. It was generally admitted that the environments into which such programmes are introduced in the USA can range from indifferent to hostile and therefore support, communication and a dialogue among those seeking to establish such programmes can be most helpful for administrators and programme survival.

This was accompanied by an excellent workshop by Paul Shaheen titled "Where are we going - what needs to be done politically?" Paul's presentation demonstrated how the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health gradually developed the capacity to lobby with its state government for increased services for infant mental health. This was positively inspiring given the need in Australia for such a development.

He pinpointed the process and strategies needed in approaching government and influencing policy and the hiring of a lobbyist was a totally new thought indeed.

In fact we have begun a correspondence with Paul in the newsletter and perhaps we can fill out the picture of what might be involved in an Australian infant mental health lobby group in future newsletters.

The conference was our first face-to-face contact with the IAIMH and it was good to meet the voice on the telephone and behind the fax machine in the person of Hiram Fitzgerald. Hiram was as helpful and efficient as he has been in all our negotiations since our beginnings in 1988. The relationship between AAIMHI and IAIMH has definitely been consolidated and the Board meetings showed the IAIMH to be more than willing to consider AAIMHI's suggestions. Renate Barth, as Australian representative on the Board of the IAIMH, will continue to communicate with the Board on all issues including the Long Range Plan which has now been streamlined (see page 2).

Finally, this is a small but very fruitful conference at which all members of AAIMHI would find a warm welcome. I would recommend it to any of our members wishing to travel in September 1992 when it will be held in Chicago, possibly back-to-back with the WAIPAD Conference.

#### Deadline for next AAIMHI Newsletter - 15 March, 1991

Please send letters to the Editor, newsletters, announcements, short articles etc. to:

The Editor  
AAIMHI  
PO Box 39  
Double Bay NSW 2028  
Australia

Telephone contact:  
Renate Barth (02) 339 4440



# THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (Inc.)

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

WORK ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose \$55.00 for annual subscription of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health (1.7.90 – 30.6.91).

Please post this form with your remittance to:

AAIMHI, PO Box 39,  
Double Bay NSW 2028  
Australia.

### Special offers for members of AAIMHI

If you wish to also become a member of the International Association for Infant Mental Health (Annual subscription approx. \$10) and/or order the Infant Mental Health Journal (annual rate approx. \$55) please contact:

Hiram Fitzgerald  
IAIMH Central Office  
Michigan State University  
Department of Psychology  
Psychology Research Building  
East Lansing  
Michigan 48824-1117 USA.

# A Letter from Lobbyist, Paul Shaheen

Hello, Down Under! As a lobbyist for maternal and child health interests in the state of Michigan, I tend to feel “down under” most of the time...

In America, politics tend to be dominated by organised lobbying groups – for example, business, labor, universities, agriculture, builders, health care, senior citizens, education, bankers, etc. etc. Human services, including maternal and child health interests, tend to be under-represented (other than as a private provider base) and there generally is no formal lobbying on behalf of common sense or community needs. Politics and government do serve as a bastion of support for “public good” but generally do so with resources that are left over when everyone else has taken what they want.

If the above characterises Australian politics, then read on. What we’ve learned may offer some hope.

Founders of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health decided they were tired of getting the “leavings” and tired of being the first group from which the “taking” occurred when the economy was slow or greed was great. They did a simple and effective thing: They organized a coalition and hired a lobbyist (me). The Council was originally a part-time activity but as interest and membership increased moved up to a full time, two person office in Michigan’s capital, Lansing.

We lobby the executive and legislative branches of government. Our primary focus is on a continuum of programs, starting with education (the Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education empowers children to make age-appropriate decisions about their health and well-being) and including prevention programs (family planning, immunizations, child health screening), early intervention programmes (prenatal care, teen and community health centres, and efforts to increase obstetrical access); and medical care and treatment. We support our state/federally-run Medicaid program and our state-operated Crippled Children’s program.

We are integral parts of several statewide coalitions and their national counterparts because we are stronger when we work together. We compromise early if issues that might divide us arise, or we agree not to confront some issues (like abortion) when in pursuit of shared objectives like access to teen health services.

Most recently the Council’s Board includes the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MAIMH). We joined forces with MAIMH to design and implement systems to focus on early child (age 0 through 4) development and family bonding and development. These areas have not traditionally been lobbied for and we do not have “turf wars” with others. If other groups, such as child care associations or teen advocates, are interested we join forces to strengthen our collective efforts.

It is often hard for clinically- or program-oriented professionals to understand the need for a full-time professional advocacy staff: It is absolutely imperative if your group or your issue is to compete with all the other organised interests in the political arena. In that arena, the competition is generally well paid professionals with precise knowledge of the process, extensive networks of personal relationships, wisdom in the ways of political strategy and backing of either money or extensive resources of grass roots political capacity. If one wishes to be a serious participant in this arena, one must send in equally prepared and supported professionals. It is an old adage that “you get what you pay for”. It’s as true for representation as it is for products.

It is also possible to come into this arena in an ad hoc, single issue basis. If you wish to do that, my suggestion is to find the resources to hire a competent lobbyist on a limited basis. Alternatively, you might identify a competent advocate either within the administration or in the elected body to provide the leadership, strategy and coordination for each issue.

Our preference is to place a team of professionals in the game and support them on a broad base of issues through time. The Council handles a lot of issues and does fairly well on most of them.

Good luck in Australia! If we can be of any assistance, please call on us. We are, after all, from the same roots. A major segment of our population derived from prison stock, too (and judging from the headlines out of Washington, several still are there). Seriously, if any of you who read this are interested in further discussion, I’m up for a new “pen pal”!

Cheerfully,

*Paul N. Shaheen, Executive Director  
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health.*

# Other Seminars, Conferences and Activities

**February 25, 1991**

**The Health Professional and the Migrant Parent**

Venue: Royal North Shore Hospital  
St Leonards, Sydney

Enquiries: Sr L. Danvers  
Nursing Unit Manager  
Child & Family Health  
44 Hercules Street  
Chatswood NSW 2067  
Phone: (02) 412 2022 ext 260

**March 1 and 2, 1991**

**Workshop "Exploring Parenthood"**

Venue: Melbourne

Enquiries: Ruth Schmidt-Neven on (03) 3455 511

**April 11-14, 1991**

**Annual Conference of the British Psychological Society**

Venue: Bournemouth International Centre  
Bournemouth, UK

Enquiries: The Conference Office,  
The British Psychological Society  
St Andrews House  
48 Princess Road East  
Leicester LE1 7DR UK

**April 16, 1991**

**Workshop "Understanding Maternal Grief" by M. Nicol**

Venue: YWCA, Wentworth Avenue, Darlinghurst, Sydney

Enquiries: Anne Carr (02) 223 6777

**April 1991**

**Tenth Congress of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. The theme will be "Focus '90 - The Directions in Close Up"**

Venue: Dallas Brooks Convention Centre,  
300 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Enquiries: Louise Read, The Congress Secretary  
Sue Woods & Associates Pty Ltd  
1st floor, 387 Malvern Road, South Yarra, Vic 3141

**April 21-23, 1991**

**Annual Conference of the Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health. The theme will be "Uniting to Support Infants and Families in Crisis"**

Venue: University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor  
Michigan, USA

Enquiries: The University of Michigan  
Extension Service  
Dept. of Conferences and Institutes  
200 Hill street  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-3297, USA

**April 26-28, 1991**

**Pacific Rim Meeting of the World Association of Infant Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines. The theme of the Conference will be "Mothers, Fathers and Families: Transition to Parenthood"**

Venue: Monash University, Royal Children's Hospital,  
Melbourne

Enquiries: Wyeth Clinical Meeting Service  
PO Box 148, Parramatta NSW 2124

**May 9-12, 1991**

**Golden Jubilee Scientific Meeting of King George V Hospital for Mothers and Babies**

Venue: Schlink Education Centre  
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney

Enquiries: Wyeth Clinical Meeting Services  
PO Box 148, Parramatta 2124

**May 26-30, 1991**

**Second International Symposium on Specific Speech and Language Disorders in Children**

Venue: Harrogate Centre, UK

Enquiries: The Symposium Secretariat  
Caroline Roney Medical Conference Organisers  
Congress House  
65 West Drive  
Sutton, Surrey SM2 7NB, UK

**July 2-6, 1991**

**Biennial Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD)**

Venue: Minneapolis, MN, USA

Enquiries: Willard W. Hartup  
University of Minnesota  
Institute of Child Development  
51 East River Road  
Minneapolis MN 55455-0345, USA

**July 7-12, 1991**

**Interamerican Congress of Psychology**

Venue: San Jose, Costa Rica

Enquiries: Ana Isabel Alvarez  
PO Box 23174 UPR Station  
Rio Piedras Puerto Rico 00931 3174

**July 8-12, 1991**

**Second European Congress of Psychology. The theme will be "Cultural Diversity, Integration and Psychology"**

Venue: Budapest, Hungary

Enquiries: National Scientific Organising Committee of the  
2nd European Congress of Psychology  
H-1378 Pf. 4 Budapest  
Izabella u46, Hungary

**July 28 - August 2, 1991**  
**11th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy in England**

Enquiries: Congress Secretariat, World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress, 55 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 7RE UK

**August 11-15, 1991**  
**49th Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists**

Venue: California, USA

Enquiries: Patricia Cautley  
4805 Regent Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705, USA

**August 16-20, 1991**  
**Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association**

Venue: San Francisco, California, USA.

Enquiries: American Psychological Association, 1200 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington DC 20036, USA.

**September 8-13, 1991**  
**Fifth Early Childhood Convention. The theme of the Conference will be "Impact of Change on Early Childhood Services and Families"**

Venue: Dunedin, New Zealand

Enquiries: Lynn Foote, Max Gold  
Dunedin College of Education,  
Private Bag, Dunedin, New Zealand

**July 4-8, 1992**  
**The Fourth World Congress of Behaviour Therapy**

Venue: The Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia.

Enquiries: Kim Halford,  
Dept of Psychiatry,  
Ipswich, Royal Brisbane Hospital,  
Herston, Qld 4072, Australia.  
Tel: (07) 253 5366

**July 14-18, 1992**  
**50th Annual Convention of the International Council of Psychologists**

Venue: Amsterdam

Enquiries: Henk van der Ploeg,  
University of Leiden  
Dept of Medical Psychology  
Postbus 1251,  
NL 2340 BG Oegstgeset  
The Netherlands

**July 19-25, 1992**  
**XXV International Congress of Psychology**

Venue: Brussels, Belgium

Enquiries: Brussels International Conference Centre,  
Parc des Expositions, Place de Belgique, B-1020  
Brussels, Belgium

**August 14-18, 1992**  
**Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Association**

Venue: Washington DC, USA

Enquiries: American Psychological Association  
1200 Seventeenth Street, NW  
Washington DC 20036, USA

## **INFANET**

### **A Computer Information and Communication System for Infant Mental Health Professionals**

INFANET provides an opportunity to communicate via computer and modem with colleagues around the world about issues related to infant mental health such as assessment, intervention, training, and research, workshop and conference announcements; employment listings; information on special interest topics; bibliography; case consultation; professional support; stress management, etc. This is known as a computer conference, or electronic bulletin board, in which participants post items, respond to items of others, and return to review responses to their items.

INFANET is currently organized as a non-profit service of the Center for Study with Infants & their Families at the Family Health Research, Education and Service Institute in Alma, Michigan. Mark Rains, CSIF Director, has volunteered to serve as conference organizer. A recent financial contribution by the IAIMH Board served a double purpose of helping launch INFANET, while enabling a benefit to IAIMH membership through a discounted registration fee.

Steps to consider in joining INFANET involve access to a computer and modem. (It would be possible to negotiate group discounts for modem purchase for those interested). The computer is connected via local or long distance call to a telecommunications network, which in turn connects to the CONFER system at the U. of Michigan computer center. With a password and deposit account for computer time set up through INFANET, the participant is able to join the conference.

Costs involve (1) a registration fee which provides a manual and password and helps defray organisational costs, (2) a deposit to a personal computer account from which telecommunications network and CONFER charges are debited, (3) local or long distance phone charges to the nearest city that has a telecommunications linkup, and (4) renewal of the computer account when it becomes low.

For more information contact:  
INFANET, c/o Family Health Institute, 503 N State,  
Alma, MI 48801, USA.

## **A Special Thanks**

A very special thanks to Michael Trout, Director of the Infant-Parent Institute in Champaign, Illinois. Michael has sent a copy of the course entitled *The Awakening and Birth of the Human Infant* which is fully accompanied with extensive course readings and some video material.

This was an extremely generous offer designed to facilitate AAIMHI's goals of providing an ongoing continuing education programme within Australia.

Michael runs a **Brief Summer Course in Infant Mental Health** which has been running for ten years and will be held from August 20-23, 1991. There are 15 slots available so early registration is advisable should any AAIMHI members wish to incorporate it into their travel plans. The course covers the psychological dimensions of pregnancy and delivery, neonatal circumstances suggesting risk, problems of infant-parent fit and the struggle to attach, and methods of family assessment and treatment.

Enquiries: Michael Trout  
The Infant-Parent Institute  
328 North Neil Street  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
USA



# A New Association for Child and Family Health Nurses in NSW

The foundation of the *Child & Family Health Nurses Association* (NSW) resulted from a commitment of early childhood health nurses following the 75th anniversary of Baby Health Care Centres in NSW.

The Association was officially formed in March 1990 and has since grown to a membership of more than 185. The majority of members come from early childhood centres, community health, school health, family care cottages and mothercraft hospitals. The main aims of the association are to:

- provide a forum for professional support
- provide continuing education to facilitate professional development and to
- set and monitor minimum standards of nursing practice by acting in an advisory capacity on matters relating to child and family health nursing.

For further information contact Pam Fikar on (02) 568 3633.

## Michigan State University Begins New Training in Infant Mental Health

Michigan State University has given approval for a new graduate program in infant studies. The Interdepartmental Graduate Specialisation in Infant Studies (ISIS) is based on the philosophy that a transdisciplinary education program is the appropriate preparatory experience for personnel who will work with infants and their families. The specialisation is designed to provide a knowledge base that will facilitate the work of graduates who pursue careers in agencies, institutions, and government organisations that offer services to infants and their families, and who pursue careers in teaching, research, and clinical work relevant to the needs of infants and their families.

To be accepted into the specialisation, students must first be admitted to one of the degree programs in participating units and must have had preparation in experimental design and statistical analysis. The co-operating units are: Nursing, Family and Child Ecology; Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition; Department of Audiology and Speech Sciences; Department of Psychology; Department of Paediatrics and Human Development; Department of Anthropology; Department of Counselling, Educational Psychology and Special Education; Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science; and the Department of Psychiatry.

For additional information write to:  
Chair: ISIS Program, Department of Psychology  
129 Psychology Research Building  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1117, USA.

[From IAIMH newsletter Vol XI, N°2, 1990, p7.]

### AAIMHI COMMITTEE

#### OFFICE BEARERS

President	Keryl Egan B.A.(Hons.), Dip. Clin. Psychol., M.A.Ps.S.
Vice President	Beulah Warren M.A. (Hons.), M.A.Ps.S.
Secretary	Kimberley Powell B.A., Dip. C.S.
Treasurer	Marianne Nicholson S.R.N., S.R.M. (London), M.C.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Bryanne Barnett M.D. F.R.A.N.Z.C.P.
Renate Barth Dip.Ed., Dip.Psych. (West Germany), M.A.Ps.S.
Peter Blake B.Comm. (Hons.), M.Psychol., M.A.C.P.
Helen Hardy Dip.O.T. (NSW)
Sue Johnson M.Psychol., M.A.Ps.S.
Margaret Nicol B.Sc. (Hons), Dip. Ed., M.A. Clin. Psych.
Paul Tait M.B., B.S., F.R.A.C.P.

#### PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Editor – Renate Barth