



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

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Guidelines for contributors

AAIMHI aims to publish quarterly editions in March, June, September and December. Contributions to the newsletter are invited on any matter of interest to the members of AAIMHI.

Referenced works should follow the guidelines provided by the APA Publication Manual 4th Edition.

All submissions are sub-edited to newsletter standards.

Articles are accepted preferably as Word documents sent electronically. Send to Shelley Reid at email:

sre74766@bigpond.net.au

Editorial inquiries:

Shelley Reid
0428 425 022
sre74766@bigpond.net.au
or shelley.reid@email.cs.nsw.gov.au
Postal address:
The Editor, AAIMHI Newsletter
PO Box 846
Ashfield NSW 1800

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AAIMHI AGM 2009

Annual Report - President

This is the end of my term as national president of AAIMHI, a privilege which I have enjoyed and learned from. So I want to thank the national committee for generous and willing support and help all along the way. Special thanks to Lynn Priddis who has stood in for me so well in my absence, Marianne Nicholson who hosted our national committee meeting at her home and kept me in touch with the national history as well as being treasurer, our hard-working and committed secretary, Shelley Reid, and Victor Evatt who has put so much effort and persistence into bringing the website database into being. I would also like to acknowledge the SA branch that did such a good job with last year's conference. Libby Morton from our Queensland committee had to resign during the year because of illness and is now going well, and we welcomed Neil Alcorn to take her place.

Achievements

A very important move forward this year was the opening of the ACT branch, led by a small group of infant mental health enthusiasts in ACT. The launch was a huge success and we wish our new branch the very best future in working for infants and their families.

Another milestone has been in strengthening our links with New Zealand and instituting members' discounts at each other's conferences. Hopefully this will strengthen knowledge-sharing between the two countries. There will be NZ news in our newsletter and vice versa.

Associate Professor Campbell Paul from our Melbourne committee was elected to the World WAIMH board and we congratulate him on this well deserved honour. This is recognition, not only of Campbell, but also of the part Australia plays in the world body.

Work on the website has continued, led by Victor Evatt. There are some hiccups getting the members' database right as it is a complex task but we are confident that it is a very worthwhile project that will make things easier for members and committees. We are also now moving towards a new look and functionality for the site, as recommended by NSW.

It is particularly encouraging to have the Aboriginal component of our conferences in place in whichever State the conference is held, and to have the national organisation and State branches supporting Aboriginal delegates to the conference.

It will be good to have the changes to the constitution in place, especially in being able to update our communication methods.

Advocacy

We have continued our role in advocating for infants, as listed below:

- A very prompt protest letter to the ABC regarding the *Bringing up Baby* show which we think had an impact on the disclaimer at the start of the show.
- We put out a media release about

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the needs of babies after the Victorian bushfires and this was picked up by the Melbourne press.

- We responded to the national Regulation Impact Statement for young children in out of home care.
- We have joined the Coalition for Australia's Children and attended meetings, supporting the importance of considering infants in decision making.
- Our position statement on Time Out is now completed and on the website. Other position statements in process are on child care and family break up.

In spite of the greater national focus on the importance of the early years this often does not carry over into policy and practice. AAIMHI has an important role in continuing our work in advocacy and education, both nationally and in each State. I would particularly like to commend the States in their ongoing work in both these areas as well as support for parent infant therapy.

Pam Linke
President 2009

NSW President's Report for National AGM 2009

28 September 2009

As it stands

A large vote of thanks goes to the (outgoing) NSW Committee. Thank you for your patience over the past few months. Much of my time as president has been focused on my relocation to Sydney and my work in social advocacy. I intend to continue my focus on establishing our presence in regional and remote communities, with a particular focus on Aboriginal Early Childhood and perinatal services and organisations; developing professional collaboration and awareness in the field of infant mental health and providing resources that promote our principles.

Thank you

I would like to thank Shelley Reid for her work as national secretary in maintaining our communication through her work on the newsletter and for her tireless efforts in keeping us informed and up-to-date. Thanks also goes to Martha Birch for her work as NSW secretary, which is thoughtful, consistent and always up-to-date. There continue to be some hiccups regarding membership communications. I am currently reviewing our administrative responsibilities and procedures where the national database is concerned with constant and continuing support to state secretaries. A special vote of thanks goes to Kate Donohoe, our out-going Membership Secretary for her work and patience in keeping our members informed and financial. And speaking of financial, thanks also to Marianne Nicholson for her continued strength as treasurer in all aspects of the role.

Database

I would like to propose a number of amendments that I feel would prevent further difficulties and increase the potential of AAIMHI to be an even more effective national organisation for our members and colleagues.

1. All membership fees to be paid to the national body and payments administered by the national treasurer and data processed by the national database secretary. This would facilitate a 'one stop shop' for members to keep their membership fees and contact info up to date and be readily accessible for conference organisers and mail out (email and snail) info. Most national organisations do it this way. Once a member has paid their fees either by cheque, direct credit or via PayPal through the website, the national treasurer will forward the balance of the member's home or proxy state's money to the respective state treasurer. Currently the national body takes \$35.00 of each member's fees and the balance of \$20.00 goes to the state. This will make it simpler to update the database, thus making the process more efficient. Administrative assistance could be provided monthly by a paid administrative secretary to support the processing and data entry.

2. Remove the 'Member details update page' from the database as I feel it will never be accurately used. If the state secretaries have had so much trouble with the database then I feel it will be impossible for members to update their details this way. Instead we will provide a Members Page on the website that is password protected (as with the Newsletter) and from there they will be able to pay their membership via PayPal, update their contact details via an email link to the Database Manager and access any member only info that we don't want on the public areas of the website. The password for this page can be changed annually or bi-annually depending on demand and updates.

It has been 18 months since the launch

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STATE REPORT - WA

of the database and it is now clear that the state secretaries are struggling to maintain and update membership records. For whatever the reasons that the membership secretaries have found it challenging to maintain the database, it is vital to have a uniform system that maintains membership details and information. By making the above changes it will ease the burden on state membership secretaries and make AAIMHI a solid communication consortium that will effectively support our members, without whom we would not exist.

Ahead

Looking ahead, the committee's future concern, I feel, is to continue to address and correct the concerns around communication for members and beyond. I would also like to see increased activity in regards to clinical workshops and sessions with thanks to those who have supported these to date. I expect to see further progress with the database as well as the launch of a fresh new website that brings us up-to-date as a front-runner association. The huge potential of the Internet as a platform for exposure and advocacy is now a given and we need to offer this important resource to our members.

Victor Evatt

WA Committee members

President: Lynn Priddis

Vice President: Elizabeth Seah

Membership secretary: Annie Mullan

Minutes Secretary: Sharon Elsley

Treasurer: Anne Clifford

Members: Ella Scott, Sue Coleson, Jane Doyle, Dalveen Godwin, Libby Fitzpatrick, and Marion Russell

Reporting member: Lynn Priddis

2009 Activities

Bi-monthly member evenings have been held, with the committee meeting in the month in between.

Presentations this year have included local practitioners showcasing their work or providing case studies to stimulate discussion. They have included Caroline Zanetti presenting a case from her Circle of Security accredited work; Sarah Landy on using Interactional Guidance with high risk parents; Anne St Jack with a fascinating case presentation and we are eagerly anticipating Galli McKenzie's case presentation at our AGM.

Membership

We have a solid membership base that is continually growing.

Issues

At our AGM we will have a partial turnover of committee members. Lynn has completed her term as President and two committee members (Dalveen and Libby) have retired due to family moves from the State.

A recurring issue is how to include rural members in our presentations and discussions.

Plans

We have an energetic **conference** planning committee for our combined May conference in **May 2011** with the Australian and NZ Chapter of Child Psychiatry. Already we have exciting speakers lined up including Karlen Lyons-Ruth and Astrid Berg with Michelle Sleed to do Reflective Functioning Training and Karlen and Elisa Bronfen in negotiations to do AMBIANCE training.

World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH) 12th World Congress, 29 June – 3 July 2010, Leipzig, Germany

The online submission site is now open (until October 31!) Visit the WAIMH web site www.waimh.org

Dear colleagues,

It will be the first WAIMH congress to be held in Germany and we are proud to organize this event in Leipzig, the city of Bach, Mendelssohn and Wundt. The central theme of the Leipzig congress will be "Infancy in Times of Transition". We are looking forward to welcoming scientists and infant mental health experts from all over the world, in an exchange of scientific research, clinical experience, theoretical thinking and social political ideas. And we promise, because of its great tradition of liberal openmindedness and scientific curiosity, Leipzig will be a good place to meet. We look forward to seeing you in Leipzig.

Antoine Guedeney, Paris, President of WAIMH

Neil Boris, New Orleans, Chair of the Program Committee

Kai von Klitzing, Leipzig, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

**Information on registration, accommodation,
and travelling to Leipzig -
visit www.waimh-leipzig2010.org
See the conference flyer on www.aimhi.org**

Bonnie Harris - Pressing Buttons

Bonnie Harris, author of "When Your Kids Press Your Buttons and What You can Do About It" and "Confident Parents Remarkable Kids" will be coming to Sydney in April 2010.

I had the good fortune of being part of Bonnie's Australian debut 'Buttons' training in April this year in Adelaide. I was taken with the AAIMHI-SA blurb for Bonnie's training offering an insightful relationship-based program which one could complete in four days, and with a little further written follow-up, could achieve certification to facilitate the training with parent groups.

Being a long-time advocate of Attachment Theory and Circle of Security-related approaches, I am struck by the sometimes apparent simplicity of behavioural approaches to parenting. I find I'm always on the lookout for programs that might assist parents to look at their very significant role in relationship with their children and therefore help their children be as secure as possible. Only then I believe are children enabled to develop wholesome ways of relating, inside their close relationships, and eventually with the wider world ... and so I thought I would give 'Buttons' training a go!

I was impressed and inspired! Here was a woman with a solid background in counselling and education applying years of personal experience and professional wisdom, helping parents to realize their children are not 'being' a problem. Rather they are 'having' a problem. Bonnie sheds light for parents on how to parent through connection, and so bridge the gap between negative behaviours and positive parent-child relationships.

Bonnie's powerful insights rise above typical quick fixes and 'how to' tactics, rather offering a rare two-way mirror for parents and children to really see each other and connect, now, and in to the future.

In teaching her program Bonnie points out how 'hot spots' in parent relationships with children often have more to do with parental relationships with one's own parents, rather than with one's children. She respectfully helps parents realize that their own hidden agendas, standards and assumptions as a parent may push children to act out. Bonnie shows parents it is possible to gain hold of their emotions, realize their children also have an agenda, and how to react more calmly and effectively. This affords children the help they so badly need when their behaviour signals they are having a problem.

I strongly recommend Bonnie's programs to anyone looking to equip parents for real and lasting positive change in relationships with their children. We will be advertising Bonnie's agenda for Sydney in April 2010 soon!

Mary Morgan

31/10/09



INFANT
TODDLER
PRESCHOOL
MENTAL
HEALTH
CONFERENCE

18 - 20 FEBRUARY 2010
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND ⇨ AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

The University of Auckland and Brown University, Rhode Island are pleased to host this Conference. International Experts from the US, Israel, Australia and the UK will present the latest in Research and Clinical Practice on:

Relationship disorders
Premature birth
Early conduct problems
Autistic disorder

Please note submissions of abstracts will be accepted until 15 December.

The Early Bird registration rate applies until 30th November.

For further information contact Pauline Proud at email: p.proud@auckland.ac.nz