

EDITORIAL

In this issue two articles address the need for sustainability in organisations and in a child welfare workforce, and two look at challenges related to the working conditions of social workers and to continuous professional development. Four articles focus on issues in child and family welfare such as family preservation, parenting skills, needs and circumstances of adolescent orphans in foster care, and adolescent girls who present with suicidal behaviour.

Nyandeni and **Ross** explore how values and principles, as well as human resources and funding strategies underpinning service delivery in the Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand Society, might have contributed to the sustainability of the organisation during a time of reduced funding. Findings indicate that values related to showing loving kindness to one's neighbours, community life and the notion of giving to charity helped to sustain this organisation.

In the light of the shortage of social workers in the child welfare field in South Africa, the article by **Schmid** emphasises the need for a sustainable, coherent and appropriate child welfare workforce in South Africa.

Alpaslan and **Schenck** revisit challenges experienced by social workers practising in rural areas. The findings of their study indicate that the challenges of their working conditions seem to be related to context, service organisation and the situation of the client.

Botha explores how Continuous Professional Development workshops could be used in knowledge building by applying the reflexive cycle in the Heuristic Research model to data collected at a workshop on disability care management presented to social workers of the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality.

Strydom's article reviews the different types of family preservation services, namely family-support services, family-centred services and intensive family-preservation services, or crisis services in relation to the requirements of existing policy documents.

Umubyeyi and **Harris** examine the attitudes of mothers from the Durban refugee community to the use of corporal punishment in bringing up children. Preliminary evaluation of a training course in non-violent parenting suggests that there were significant shifts of attitude among the participants in favour of non-violent parenting.

Van der Westhuizen, Roux and **Strydom** report on research into the circumstances and the needs of adolescent orphans affected by HIV and AIDS in foster care. They recommend that social workers should be aware of these circumstances and needs in order to equip orphans with the skills to improve their social functioning.

The focus of the article by **Du Toit** and **Strydom** is on the psychosocial needs of adolescent girls who present with suicidal behaviour that can be attributed to a variety of circumstances. The overarching psychosocial needs of participants are discussed in terms of three themes: love and acceptance, communication with expression of emotion, and the future of the girls.

Prof Sulina Green, Department of Social Work, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch