
EDITORIAL/REDAKSIONEEL

During 2003 we asked readers to respond to a survey on *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk*. Here are some of the main results.

The majority of respondents said that they had been subscribers for the past five years. Almost half were academics, while about a fifth were social work practitioners. Very few were students.

One of the purposes of the survey was to determine how readers use the articles. Most readers seemed to use the articles for learning and teaching purposes, and also for extending their own knowledge and interests.

Readers were also invited to say what topics they would like to see addressed by future articles. Four topics predominated: social development, social work intervention methods, child and family welfare and social work education.

The present issue of *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk* includes articles that address those topics in various ways. One article deals with how strengths-focused intervention is utilised in the South African Police Service (SAPS). It explains how an operationalised version of the strengths perspective now forms the basis of social work in the SAPS. Another article critically discusses the appropriateness and necessity of short-term therapy within the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) context. The types of problems that can be addressed by short-term therapy in the workplace are explained. There is also an extensive report on an investigation into the determinants of job satisfaction and the improvement of quality of work life of grassroots social workers in the employment of the Society for the Physically Disabled in the Western Cape Region.

One thing that was striking in the responses to the survey was an apparent lack of interest in, or concern about, institutional matters, political issues and health care. If there are any other topics that you would like to read about, the correspondence remains open.

In future, this Editorial will have an occasional function and appear only as current affairs suggest themselves. Meanwhile, the abstracts of articles published will be printed together with their titles on the contents page.

Sulina Green

Editor