

Prof Sulina Green, Department of Social Work, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa.

EDITORIAL

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The promotion of healthy family life--its health, welfare, and preservation--is of fundamental and strategic importance for social work. For this reason, knowledge about the living conditions and experiences of the family or of a specific family member is essential for service providers to address these family concerns. The present issue of *Social Work/Maatskaplike Werk* presents the findings of research on the need for prevention and intervention programmes and services to address the special concerns of vulnerable families, parents, couples, and women and children.

The first two articles examine the need for social service programmes that can enhance the health and happiness of employees and married couples. The first article reveals that employees in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Namibia experience diverse personal and work-related problems that influence their productivity, and it indicates the need for Employee Assistance Programmes (EAPs) in these enterprises to promote employee well-being. The second article emphasises the need for culturally appropriate and empirically evaluated marriage-enrichment programmes for married African couples.

Thereafter two articles offer insights into the challenges faced by parents of children in conflict with the law or parents of *nayope* drug users. One article presents a co-constructed practice model, which could be implemented collaboratively by service providers in the government and non-governmental sectors to expand their services to support parents before, during and after the child justice process. The second article suggests that social workers and social service professionals should develop specialised programmes to empower and protect parents living with a *nayope*-dependent child.

The focus of the next three articles is on women who are living in social rental houses, who are survivors of human trafficking, and who consume alcohol during pregnancy. The first article revisits the relation between gender and social rental housing and reports that women regard housing as central to their security; it suggests that housing delivery processes should acknowledge the special needs of women and children in order to promote their human rights. The next article reveals that trafficking of women for domestic and sexual exploitation has devastating consequences for them, and urges social workers to design holistic prevention and intervention programmes to enhance the well-being of survivors. The third article explores the experiences of women, partners and family members of women consuming alcohol during pregnancy in a low-resource setting, and suggests that interventions targeting drinking in general in low-resource communities could assist in addressing the underlying drinking culture and peer pressure to consume alcohol in such communities.

The final article in this issue reports on the psycho-social deficits experienced by Zambian teenagers born and raised in a family where their parents' extramarital affairs are kept secret, and it indicates that government and non-governmental organisations should design intervention programmes to safeguard the best interests of those children.

