

EDITORIAL

The provision of comprehensive social services and programmes that empower vulnerable people in the fields of substance abuse, HIV and AIDS, as well as people with special needs such as migrants, remains a challenge to Social Work.

In this edition, two articles look at complex phenomena such as migration and human trafficking: one presents a framework for understanding risk and protective factors relevant to migrants and offers guidelines for social work intervention; the other explores the role the social worker in human trafficking and the place of social work as a profession *vis-à-vis* this phenomenon.

A pair of articles addresses concerns about substance abuse. In one, lessons from the evaluation of an out-patient substance abuse treatment programme are set out; in the other, risk factors of violence and heavy drinking within alcohol outlets that are obscure to social workers are addressed.

HIV and AIDS are the focus of a further two articles. The first explores the effectiveness of an HIV and AIDS community mobilisation programme for resource-constrained settings, while the second explores the psycho-social experiences and coping resources of family members caring for people living with AIDS.

Finally, two contributions address financial resources. One offers important insights into the effects of the 2008/2009 economic recession on NGO sustainability in social services, health and education sectors in South Africa, and the other examines the impact of the Social Support Grant on participation in the labour market in a rural area.

A social work practice perspective on migration is an article presented by **Roostenburg**. This article explores environmental, social and inclusion/exclusion issues of migrants during the course of their migration process. Using a risk and resilience perspective and an eco-systemic approach, based on the Central Methodist Church (CMC) case study, the article provides a framework for understanding risk and protective factors relevant to migrants and formulates guidelines for social work intervention.

The purpose of the article by **Mynhardt** and **Strydom** is to examine *the views held by social workers regarding their role in human trafficking*. The study explores the challenges faced in defining the role of the social worker in human trafficking, and the relevance of social work as a profession to this complex phenomenon. The results of this study indicate that inadequate knowledge and training in human trafficking is a reality. Collaboration and a proper working relationship among all role-players seem to be essential in addressing and curbing this problem.

In *Lessons from the evaluation of a public out-patient substance abuse treatment programme in the Western Cape*, **Strebel, Shefer, Stacey, and Shabala** report on process evaluations of such a programme in the Western Cape conducted over two years. The programme was generally viewed very positively by both staff and clients. The evaluations identified valuable lessons for enhancing public out-patient substance abuse programmes.

Heavy drinking and interpersonal violence at and around different alcohol outlets in the North West Province, South Africa is the subject of the article by **Phetlho-Thekisho, Ryke, and Strydom**. This study addresses specific risk factors of violence and heavy drinking within alcohol outlets that remain obscure to social workers. It concludes that there is an incongruence of policies and practices in the running of alcohol outlets. Recommendations for stringent measures to ensure policy compliance are made.

Shilubane and Geyer in *Khomanani: An HIV and AIDS community mobilisation programme for resource-constrained settings* explore the effectiveness of the Khomani Community Action Partners Programme in the social mobilisation of communities in the Greater Letaba Municipality (Limpopo Province) for HIV/AIDS prevention and care, as experienced by the partners. Findings highlighted the strengths of the programme including, amongst other things, the harmonisation of HIV/AIDS messaging and communications.

The economic and psycho-social experiences and coping resources of family members caring for people living with AIDS in their homes in Bhambayi, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa is an important article presented by **Raniga and Motloug**. This paper explores the profound impact of socio-economic and gender factors on the caregiving roles, responsibilities and coping mechanisms of family members caring for people living with AIDS. Using structural theory, some remarks concerning improvement of services at both micro and macro levels are made.

The article by **Gebreselassie-Hagos and Smit** on *The effects of the 2008/9 economic recession on NGO sustainability and functioning in the South African social services, health and education sectors* is a quantitative electronic survey that revealed that NGOs received less funding and that this had a negative impact on organisational output. Despite the threat to their sustainability and functioning during this period, the recession also created opportunities to develop and implement strategies that minimised such negative impacts and ensured sustainability. While most respondent organisations were optimistic about their long-term sustainability, a significant number expressed concern about their ability to survive the long-term effects of the economic recession.

The article *The Impact of the Child Support Grant on participation in the labour market in rural Eastern Cape*, by **Tanga and Gutura**, examines the impact of the

Child Support Grant on labour market participation by female beneficiaries. The findings show that there is a statistically significant level of unemployed female beneficiaries searching for work. Since it provides potential labour market participants with the resources and economic security necessary to invest in a high-risk/high-reward job search, a Child Support Grant is correlated with a higher success rate in the search for employment.