

## Editorial

Lauren Breen

*Edith Cowan University*

The Australian Community Psychologist is auspiced by the Australian Psychological Society, and I am required to write an annual report on the journal. I was very proud to note in my report that previous authors and their work published in ACP has been discussed in the media. For instance, Triple J radio interviewed an author about her project with young fly-in/fly-out workers while another author was interviewed on an SBS television program about gaming research. Additionally, ACP is accessed by local and international readers, receives manuscripts from local and international contributors, has earned an ERA ranking from the Australian Research Council, and is indexed in the PANDORA database.

This issue of ACP presents a special section devoted to the Trans-Tasman Community Psychology conference, which is a biennial conference shared between Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand and is the premier community psychology conference in the southern hemisphere. Previous conferences have been staged in Pakatoa (1989), Maralinga (1990), Rotorua (1992), Yarrabah (1993), Toodyay (1996), Hamilton (1998), Melbourne (2001), Perth (2002), Tauranga (2004), and Sydney (2006) (Gridley & Breen, 2007).

The 11<sup>th</sup> conference was held in Fremantle from Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and was themed “Exploring Boundaries, Expanding Frontiers”. The sub-themes centred on current and emerging discussions and debate within community psychology research and practice. The six keynote speakers were:

- Associate Professor Darrin Hodgetts, Department of Psychology, University of Waikato, Aotearoa/New Zealand;
- Professor Beth Shinn, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University, United States of America;
- Dr Paul Duckett, Department of Psychology and Social Change, Manchester Metropolitan University, United Kingdom;

- Professor Colleen Hayward, Kurongkurl Katitjin, Edith Cowan University, Australia;
- Mr Darren Garvey, Centre for Aboriginal Studies, Curtin University of Technology, Australia; and
- Professor Margaret Sims, School of Education, University of New England, Australia

After the conference, presenters were invited to submit manuscripts for publication in The Australian Community Psychologist, and four of these submissions are included in this issue. Darren Garvey provides an updated version of the stimulating and thought-provoking keynote address he presented to the conference delegates. He reflects on how to work better with Indigenous people, which, as Darren explains, is still often met with resistance and ambivalence but need not be. Vicky Totikidis presents some of her community-based interventions for health promotion and disease prevention. She demonstrates that the nominal group technique is a useful tool in assisting community members to develop ideas to effect positive health and wellbeing. Julie Ann Pooley and Lynne Cohen describe several studies of resilience to offer a contextual definition of the term, and in doing so, make an important contribution to the resilience literature. Ken Robinson and Glen Scott-Pillow present their evaluation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Trans-Tasman Community Psychology Conference. Their analysis of the conference’s successes and areas for improvement will be useful to organisers of forthcoming Trans-Tasman conferences.

Following these articles drawn from the conference is one general paper. Jade Dyer, Leesa Costello, and Paul Martin present their findings on the use of an Internet support group for cardiac patients. The paper is important given the ever-increasing utility of technology and is useful in relation to our understanding of online communities. Next, book reviews are

provided by Alison Garton, Katie Thomas, Carol Tutchener, and Lyn O'Grady. These are followed by Rhona Weinstein's obituary for Seymour Sarason, a key and influential figure in the field of community psychology.

Finally, an upcoming issue of ACP in 2011 will be themed, 'Resilience: Diverse perspectives and contexts in working with resilience' produced by an editorial team led by Lynne Cohen. Manuscripts may be of a theoretical or empirical focus and may be drawn from research projects or reflections on practice issues. The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2011 and the issue will be published in May 2011. Submissions can be sent to, and further information requested from, Catherine Ferguson at [c.ferguson@ecu.edu.au](mailto:c.ferguson@ecu.edu.au).

### Reference

Gridley, H., & Breen, L. (2007). So far and yet so near? Community psychology in Australia. In S. M. Reich, M. Riemer, I. Prilleltensky, & M. Montero (Eds.), *International community psychology: History and theories* (pp. 119-139). New York: Springer.

### Address correspondence to

Lauren J. Breen, PhD, MAPS  
Social Justice Research Centre  
School of Psychology and Social Science  
Edith Cowan University  
[l.breen@ecu.edu.au](mailto:l.breen@ecu.edu.au)