

elusive. However, it is clear that wage and regulatory policies that result in women working long hours outside the home will add to existing pressures that make fostering less attractive than in the past.

Anne Butcher's article flows logically from the Siminski et al study, addressing the training and status of foster carers. Her work is drawn from doctoral research in the Mackay Whitsunday Region of Queensland. With foster care probably the primary form of out-of-home care now being used throughout Australia, and concerns about abuse of children and young people whilst in care, this study highlights the need for training and support of foster carers. However, the article goes further, suggesting that a process for nationally accepted qualifications with accredited, competency-based training is required. The professionalisation of foster care will no doubt have its supporters and its critics. However, with the declining number of people coming forward as carers and the costs involved in caring for children with complex needs and challenging behaviours, we may well see governments with

little option; unless alternative approaches can be quickly developed.

In a practice focussed section in this edition, we return to Andrew King and his colleagues' pursuit of improved services for men, particularly fathers, a group often deemed difficult to attract to welfare service participation. This short paper follows an earlier article on the same topic, this time looking specifically at the nature of services that have been most successful in engaging fathers. Using expectations of positive responses from men and proposing a flexible range of options, the core purpose of this paper is to encourage agencies to review their practices in relation to service delivery to men. This will no doubt draw debate from some quarters in terms of the assumed gender differences that drive differences in practice. Responses from both the field and academics will be welcome!

Jennifer Lehmann

ERRATUM

Volume 29 Number 4. pp 4-11: Intensive Family Services in Australia: A 'snapshot', by Lynda Campbell

Our apologies to Dr Lynda Campbell, and those included below, for omitting the acknowledgments accompanying her article, as follows:

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