

# Editorial

*This issue marks a new development in the life of "Australian Child and Family Welfare". When the first issue appeared in February 1976 it represented the efforts of a small group of people concerned about the welfare of children and families, who believed that there should be a national forum reflecting issues, views, research and news. Since that first issue we have sought to implement those concerns and belief under the generous umbrella of the Children's Welfare Association of Victoria held on behalf of the Child and Family Welfare Council of Australia. With the appointment of the Council's first full-time Executive Director and the launching of a National Secretariat in April, the Child and Family Welfare Council has assumed full responsibility for publishing the Journal. We welcome this development not only because it identifies the Journal directly with a national body but also because it signals a new and significant step forward in the field of child and family welfare. Elsewhere in this issue the new Executive Director, Graeme Gregory, outlines the objectives of the Council and invites participation in its work from organisations and individuals. We wish Graeme well in his new role and hope that the National Secretariat will soon make its presence felt in the fields of consultation, co-ordination and research.*

*We also welcome our first contributions from overseas. Kay Donley's note on single parents and substitute care is a timely prod from a person who made many friends in Australia when she participated in the First Australian Adoption*

*the theories in practice. By way of contrast, Dr. Williams' sensitive comments on child psychiatric disorders points up the importance of having a wide range of treatments in our interventive armamentariums.*

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## New Development

*Conference in Sydney in 1976. Martin Herbert may be less well known to Australian readers, although he has published widely in the field of child psychology and treatment. His scholarly paper on behavioural casework in family situations will reward the reader with knowledge about a much maligned and misrepresented field of treatment. In particular he shows clearly that there is a warm, caring side to behavioural work. This paper, together with Michael Griffin's article on training teachers and parents as "therapists" invite comment and challenge practitioners to test out*

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*Research finds its place in Kraus' empirical study on the adjustment of adopted children. So much of adoption theory and practice is still shrouded in mystery and untested assertions that studies like this (even if they are statistically "ferocious" to the non researcher!) represents a step towards firmer ground.*

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*Regular readers will be relieved to know that we have finally caught the gremlin who has been tinkering with the Journal's numbering system. From now on a new volume will begin with the first issue in each year, and the issues will be numbered 1-4. Cut-out slips at the back of this issue will enable readers to bring back numbers into line.*

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