## Doard ulletin

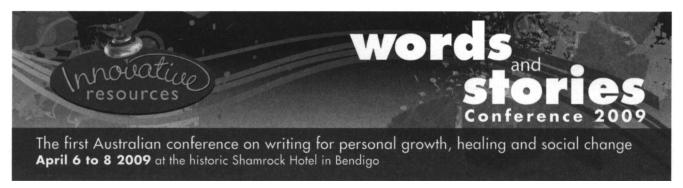
Commentary from members of Children Australia Editorial Board

## FROM DR DIANA BOSWELL, DIRECTOR THE THOMAS WRIGHT INSTITUTE, CANBERRA, ACT

Diana is the Director of the Thomas Wright Institute which is located in Canberra and which provides local and Australia-wide specialist support services for child, youth and family focused organisations, primarily in the areas of child and family welfare, education, disability and youth services. Particular areas of interest are in trauma informed care and interventions for out-of-home care programs and schools, young people with sexually problematic behaviours, autism spectrum disorders, and the new 'reclaiming' model for working with incarcerated youth that is being introduced in Canberra. Diana teaches graduate courses at the University of Canberra in the area of autism, and collaborates in research in this area.

Our increased knowledge and awareness of the impact of neglect and abuse on all areas of child development has led to urgency in finding new models for our systems of care, correction, and education with the goal of helping and not inflicting further harm on vulnerable children and youth. There is a paradigm shift in the way in which we approach our responsibility for the wellbeing of young people and being involved in this process of exploration of new models and approaches is both exciting and daunting for service providers. *Children Australia* has provided a structure and direction for the debate that is invaluable. I look forward to my ongoing association.

Diana Boswell



St Luke's Innovative Resources is pleased to announce the inaugural Words and Stories Conference. Bringing together human service workers, educators, facilitators and other creative individuals from throughout Australia and New Zealand, the conference will explore the power of stories—both written, spoken and imagined—to create change and transform lives.

The therapeautic uses of writing and storytelling are blossoming around the world as human service workers discover creative new ways to hear client voices and to reflect on their own practice.

At the Words and Stories Conference we will explore a diverse range of literary forms in a variety of practice situations including mental health support, homeless persons services,

youth work, child and family services, community building projects, trauma recovery, groupwork, classrooms and counselling.

## The conference will feature:

- Keynote addresses by a number of Australia's most creative writers
- A wide selection of informative and interactive workshops
- Readings and performances
- Book launches
- · Visual displays & book buying opportunities
- Publishing advice
- An intimate atmosphere (a limit of 80 participants)
- · A free journal for every participant

Registrations now open Phone Nola Tranter on (03) 5442-0515 (Mon - Thurs) or email nola@innovativeresources.org