

editorial

At a time when printing presses are threatening to deluge us all in a maelstrom of paper it is proper to try to explain why we are launching a new journal. Why now, when so many people in social welfare are struggling to cope with their day to day work? Why now when so many unread journals gather dust on desks and shelves?

It is precisely because there is so much going on all over Australia that a small group of social workers and academics expressed their concern at the lack of any real forum for the discussion of child and family welfare matters. It is because so many of the existing specialist journals fail to appeal to the broad readership of social welfare that we are launching Australian Child and Family Welfare.

What kind of a Journal will it be? The Answer to that will depend in part on who reads it and who wants to contribute. It will not aim at an exclusive readership interested only in learned papers full of statistics, nor will it set up in competition with Mr Rupert Murdoch. We aim for the broad spectrum of people who make up the vast army of workers in the child and family welfare field – social workers, welfare officers, cottage parents, marriage guidance counsellors etc. We also hope to include contributions from those people, who use the social welfare services. Our concern is to open up discussion on policies and practices to discuss innovations and the raising of standards. This will take a variety of forms. Each edition will contain a number of articles on relevant issues likely to appeal to the differing needs of our readership. Under the heading "Miscellany" will be included shorter informative pieces on current issues, new legislation, research, and interstate news from the field gathered by state correspondents. A book review section will offer a critical guide to new publications from all over the world to help keep readers abreast of new ideas and developments.

There can be no doubt that we are entering an important phase in the field of child and family welfare in Australia. The new journal hopes to ensure that some of the central issues are publicised and debated so that sound policies and procedures are established. There are two ways in which readers can contribute to this – by buying the journal and by subscribing to it.