

Editorial

The need for more effective implementation of programmes which support children and families and which prevent or minimise negative effects of inadequate or undesirable policies or behaviours has not lessened in the International Year of Peace.

To have a world of peace, policies and programmes which must bring peace to individuals, as well as to countries as a whole, must be pursued. Peace between the USA and USSR, for example, will mean little to a child being abused in Australia. A recent seminar at the Human Resource Centre and the Institute for Peace Research, La Trobe University, explored

the development of peace through individuals, organisations and internationally. This approach enabled the participants to gain an appreciation that all individuals can work towards peace, and peace between individuals is a major starting point. This seminar stressed the need of teaching people to work out their conflicts with others whilst respecting the rights of other individuals.

Children who are being abused physically or through institutional policies are amongst the most powerless in our community. This makes it a challenge for all those concerned with children to work towards the development of knowledge

which will ensure policies and programmes are developed to support families to achieve their goals, which are built on knowledge and can be implemented effectively. The current demand for programmes to meet financial or managerial goals can ignore the fact that promoting the wrong programme and implementing it more efficiently is hardly an effective support for children and families. We need more research into effectively meeting the needs of children and to build that knowledge into an efficiently implemented programme.

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