

minimizing their influence in families in order to protect the child. He suggests some strategies for this, and in Chapter Eight uses the case described in Chapter One to re-emphasize the use of a framework of response consisting of the referral phase, the investigation phase, the intervention phase and the case conference phase using his categorization components of protection, family and social context and resources.

Chapter Nine provides a general outline of a training package for foster parents of sexually abused children. This chapter would provide a good starting point for

anyone who was responsible for training foster parents to deal with child sexual abuse.

The value of this book lies in its child protection perspective and the framework it offers to child protection workers in categorizing and prioritizing child sexual abuse referrals. The book challenges the basis of many accepted "practice wisdoms" such as the importance of so-called disclosure interviews, the role of the mother in intrafamilial child sexual abuse cases and the social worker's relationship with the mother and perpetrator, and as such is worth reading.

The book is not difficult to read or comprehend. In fact I found that its easy, discursive style caused me to initially discount the significance of what O'Hagan was saying for statutory social work intervention in child sexual abuse cases. It was upon reflection that the value of what he was suggesting became apparent.

*Reviewer: Lesley Hewitt
Lesley Hewitt is currently on maternity leave from Community Services Victoria, where she is a senior policy advisor on child protection and sexual abuse.*



Title: *Sexual Attitudes and Behaviours: A Review of the Literature*

Author: Bruce Rollins

Publisher: Australian Institute of Family Studies, Bibliography Series, Melbourne 1989

Length: 88 pages

This review of the literature on sexual behaviours and attitudes to the sexual behaviour of various groups in the community was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Community Services and Health (National AIDS Program). The intention of the review was to contribute to an understanding of changes in attitudes to sexual behaviour and in community patterns of sexual behaviour. The knowledge gained from the review would assist in AIDS prevention, community education strategies and programs for the general community.

Bruce Rollins has produced an excellent discussion of over 400 publications which are included in the bibliography. The literature cited includes: commercial polls and sample surveys, work commissioned by governments and their agencies, and academic studies. There is a very comprehensive survey of Australian material and many significant overseas studies, in particular from the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Most of the discussion focuses on material published after 1970. However, there is an excellent introductory chapter, "Patterns of Sexual Behaviour: From Kinsey to the 1970s". This chapter provides a very good summary of the Kinsey Reports on the sexual

behaviour of males (1948) and females (1953) in the United States, and compares the data with subsequent studies in the following decades, in the United States and other parts of the world, including Australia.

Both the patterns of sexual behaviour, and the attitudes to sexual behaviour of various community groups are discussed. These groups include adolescents, women, homosexual and bisexual men, and intravenous drug users. In line with the aims of the review, the text thoroughly discusses the implications of the various behaviours and attitudes for the spread of HIV in the Australian community.

The literature on male homosexuality, with particular reference to the spread of AIDS, is most comprehensive. There is an excellent review of recent studies carried out in Australia, and elsewhere, that have relevance to the prevention of AIDS. Changes in attitudes to homosexuality over the last two decades are summarised. The 1970's and 1980's literature is compared with Kinsey's (1948) study.

Much relevant information on adolescent sexuality is presented. The discussion draws on several studies that have surveyed teenagers on the diversity of their sexual behaviour, attitudes and sexual knowledge. Patterns of sexual activity, contraceptive use,

and attitudes to condoms have particular relevance in the planning of education programs for young people that are aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS.

The literature review covers a wide range of sexual behaviour, and makes comparisons between population studies in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia. The review documents some interesting changes in sexual behaviour, and attitudes to sexual behaviour, over the last four decades. This publication will definitely be most useful to those people involved in developing AIDS prevention strategies and education programs for the general community, and for specific sub-groups such as intravenous drug users, bisexual or homosexual men, and adolescents. The book will also be a valuable resource to a wide range of people interested in various aspects of human sexual behaviour. I found that the review contained much information that will be useful to me in my research on, and teaching of, human sexuality.

*Reviewer: Patsy Littlejohn
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