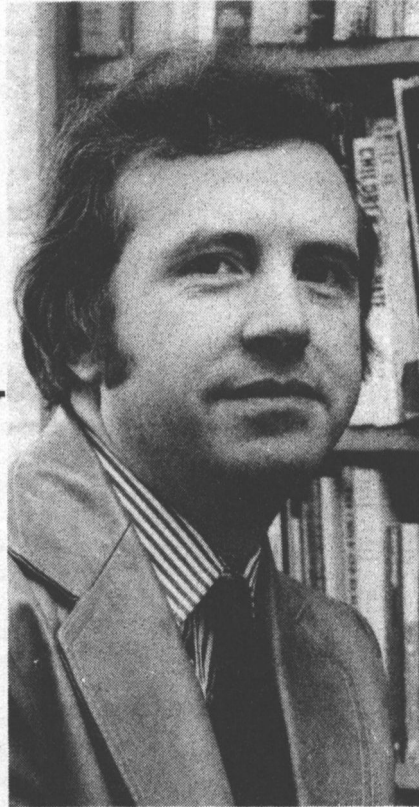


editorial



Mr. Cliff Picton

Cliff Picton is the new editor of *Australian Child and Family Welfare*. He is a lecturer in social work at Monash University. Before coming to Australia 3 years ago he was a lecturer at Leicester University having previously worked as a social worker for a number of years. Cliff was a member of the Journals original committee.

As this Journal enters its second year of publication it is appropriate to take stock, to look back and to look ahead. In the first year it was our intention to prove that there was much valuable material in Australia waiting to be tapped, and a substantial potential membership waiting to be informed. A subscription list of over one thousand by the end of 1976 indicates that we were right on both counts. Moreover, for an Editor to be in a position to choose from a range of publishable articles augers well for the building up of a substantive body of Australian material on child and family welfare.

New Features

This year we will continue to cover a wide variety of topics and introduce new features. An occasional legal column reviewing significant developments in child and family law is planned as well as a review of research projects, completed and in process. In addition I would like to invite letters containing comment and criticism on the material presented.

Different problems

Several different problems and issues confronting families are

have foundered. The article by Burgess and Nystul delineates some of the main issues confronting single parents while Marshall's talk shows how a counselling service is an essential adjunct to the divorce process.

Epilepsy

Muirden's paper on Epilepsy not only helps to demystify a very stigmatising condition but also provides insights into the stresses faced by sufferers and their families, whilst Donegan's short practice account highlights the tattoo problem familiar to those concerned with the institutional care of adolescents.

Wider Publicity

Adoption, in its several forms, is receiving much wider publicity than ever before in Australia. As well as pressing for revision of adoption laws, individuals and organisations are challenging some basic assumptions about practice.

We hope to devote the next issue to a wide ranging review of the principles of adoption practice throughout Australia including Aboriginal adoption and inter-country adoption.

Taking Stock

represented in this issue. Single parenthood is a rapidly growing phenomenon in Australia and many other Western-type countries. All too often we seem able only to count heads instead of providing an appropriate service to people outside marriage or those whose marriages