

A perceived need for training and professional education opportunities for workers and community agencies operating in rural and remote areas of Australia has led to the development of a new Clearinghouse service: Rural-Remote Talks. (see Newsletter, Vol.9 No.1, Winter 2001).

The service places particular emphasis on rural and remote communities for Clearinghouse presentations, seminars and workshops.

The service was featured in the last Newsletter. A number of government and non-government agencies have since contacted the Clearinghouse in order to negotiate visits and presentation(s). To date, Clearinghouse staff have presented the following seminars and workshops. These events were usually accompanied by a series of consultations with local professionals and a variety of site visits.

Presentations

“Getting the lowdown on child abuse and neglect: A Community seminar”, presented at Collie Family Care centre, Collie, Western Australia, 11 September 2001; and at Bunbury Yacht Club, 12 September, 2001. [Adam Tomison]

“Preventing child abuse and other family violence: Issues for professionals”, presented at Collie Family Care Centre, Collie, Western Australia, 11 September 2001; and at Bunbury Yacht Club, 12 September, 2001. [Adam Tomison]

“Preventing Child Maltreatment – Issues for professionals, with a focus on disability and alternative care”, workshop presented at the Community Accommodation and Respite Agency (CARA), Adelaide, 15 October, 2001. [Adam Tomison]

“An overview of current Australian and overseas policies and programs in child maltreatment prevention and intervention”, keynote address presented to the Child Protection & Family Support Forum, Central Queensland Region, Department of Families, Youth and Community Care, Rockhampton, Qld, 25-26 October, 2001. [Janet Stanley]

“Child protection and child abuse prevention: Key issues and future directions”, workshop presented to Family & Children’s Services staff, Department of Community Development, Perth, 8 November, 2001. [Adam Tomison]

“Exploring family violence: Linking child maltreatment and domestic violence”, keynote address presented at the Regional Domestic Violence Conference for the Greater Murray Region, Deniliquin, NSW, 6 December, 2001. [Adam Tomison]

“Preventing family violence”, workshop presented at the Regional Domestic Violence Conference for the Greater Murray Region, Deniliquin, NSW, 6 December, 2001. [Adam Tomison]



Events have been very well attended and feedback received from the organisers of the visits has been uniformly positive. In addition to the specific benefits of attending the seminars, the visits have enabled the Clearinghouse to learn more about the issues and needs of professionals and communities across Australia.

Further, they have enabled the Clearinghouse to widen its membership and provide support to relatively isolated agencies and professionals. They have also facilitated the development of stronger, ongoing relationships between local agencies and the Clearinghouse, which in some cases has translated into further Clearinghouse seminars.

Agencies or communities planning a regional or local conference, seminar or workshop with a focus on aspects of child abuse prevention, child protection, or associated areas, are invited to contact the Clearinghouse (preferably with plenty of lead time) in order to discuss the possibility of a visit and/or presentation. As with any service, the ability to undertake the rural-remote visits is subject to staff availability and budgetary considerations.

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