

## Editorial

Welcome to the inaugural Special Edition of the Australian Journal of Guidance and Counselling. The theme for this special edition, Teaching Prosocial Behaviour to Adolescents, has come from the national project of the Australian Guidance and Counselling Association, supported by a grant under the Quality Schooling Program from the Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education and Training. We envisage that this special edition will launch our intention for a biannual journal, as well as further special editions.

As counsellors and guidance officers employed in education settings the membership of AGCA is often asked to consult about, or to deal with, issues of social behaviour and violence in schools. Teachers and support personnel increasingly are confronted by the issues of students who display inappropriate behaviours, and of those who are subjected to the interference or disruption. As educators we believe it is the right of all students to learn in a safe environment, and of teachers to teach free from intimidation and violence.

This Special Edition seeks to inform us about the area of Teaching Prosocial Behaviour to Adolescents, as well as challenge us to action. Many of the contributors are well known for their expertise in the area, and we welcome the contributions of those authors who are not quite so well known. Articles cover: overviews of the area (Bayer, McGrath), assessing students' social skills (MacMullin), gender and aggression (Owens), what to do about bullying (Slee, Rigby), individual goal focused intervention (Ralph), and developing prosocial behaviour through tapping altruism (Frydenberg). In addition we have included interviews with Arnold Goldstein (of Skill Streaming fame), and Kaj Bjorkqvist (a leading researcher in the area of gender and aggression).

Before you delve into the content of this Special Edition, I would like to thank the Management and Advisory Committees for the national project, and the National Executive of the AGCA, for their support of both the concept and the production.

I trust readers will find much of interest in the following pages. I welcome feedback about this Special Edition, and the concept in general.

Kate Prescott

## **Acknowledgement**

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## **Enquiries**

Enquiries regarding the Teaching Prosocial Behaviour to Adolescents Project should be directed to the Project Officer, Australian Guidance & Counselling Association Ltd., PO Box 207, Mitcham Shopping Centre, TORRENS PARK SA 5062