

President's Letter for June 2010

It has been a while since I last sat down to write a letter. I actually cannot believe the year has half gone.

The biggest event in my professional life and others in CCAV at the moment is the on going preparations for the Conference.

We have recently finalised and accepted our workshop presentations which are very diverse and interesting around the issues of Trauma and its impact on Carers and Receivers. Topics such as Using the Body and Metaphors in Healing, Retraumatizing, When to push when to hold and Working with Men. These presentations will both stimulated our thinking and give us some "how to" through interactive exercises.

We still need volunteers for jobs to run the Conference at the venue, on the day. So contact Judy Wilkie or myself if you can help out

At our recent PD we had the opportunity to listen and work with Steve Moorhead on the issues of Sex and Intimacy in the Counselling Centre, and it was well received by those who went. Some learning's from those who attended include, "Sexuality is part of life and relationships therefore part of counselling", "There is a broad base of what is 'normal', " and "Counsellors should be aware of their own boundaries and comfort zone in speaking about sex".

If you check out the web page you will notice our last PD for the year has been up loaded. This issue is about how to deal with Grief-Loss-Anger-Confusion at Christmas time

I would like to draw your attention to our need for members to commit to the on going work of our committees. New members are needed both on the Accreditation and Professional Development Committees. Being on this committee is a great way of networking and developing our skills and counselling practices.

Some of you may have been following the recent events of the government cut backs affecting Social Workers. I think it is encouraging that they have revisited the decision and reversed it. What it suggests to me 'they' are listening to peoples needs. We need to continue taking any opportunity that arises to state the case of Professional Counsellors and continue to support Colin Benjamin from PACFA in his efforts to put forward our skills and value to the government bodies involved in making these decisions. There will be an update from PACFA in a few weeks, so let's keep up our prayers.

Those of you how hate missing out on AGM's will be pleased to see we have scheduled our 2010 AGM at 6.00pm-6.30pm on the Friday night of the Conference so as to maximise the opportunity of attending.

Warm Regards,

Maureen Ireland

