

September 2008

Dear CCAA Registered Members and Associates in NSW,

Before the Olympics, I heard on the radio an interview with Nett Knox. Nett is one of our long term CCAA Clinical members in NSW. Nett was talking about her role as a Chaplain to the Olympic team in Beijing. She spoke of her fascinating responsibility to be impartial to competitors who live with unreal pressures from all sides. While I was reflecting on Nett, I thought warmly of another long term CCAA Clinical member in NSW who has recently published something of his clinical work - Doug Sotheren. As a couple therapist myself, I avidly ordered the book "Couple Therapy in Australia" a landmark book published at the end of 2007. Doug Sotheren contributed the chapter on "Somatic awareness in couple counselling".

Both the above are only two examples. As I meet and talk with more and more of our registered members and other veteran counsellors, I continually hear of amazing and creative endeavours by Christian counsellors. I remember when doing my Masters, being told that we are being equipped to be leaders. Yet isn't that true for all of us as Christians in our profession roles as counsellors? "You are the salt of the earth." CCAA would love to hear more of what God is doing through your influence and leadership as a Christian. If you wish to write a few hundred words, we will consider sharing and publishing it.

Our NSW Accreditation Committee has been very busy processing your applications, whether to Clinical or Graduate membership, or as CCAA-Accredited Supervisors. Associates, I urge you to step up to Graduate Membership if you have completed a Bachelor or Post Graduate Diploma. That way you will obtain professional recognition through CCAA and the PACFA Register. If you are not yet on the PACFA Register, please send us your Graduate or Clinical application soon. Applications processed by the end of 2008 will have free entry to the PACFA Register (\$99 after 1 Jan 2009) and no annual listing fee.

PACFA developments are happening so quickly. Can I recommend you go to [www.pacfa.net.au](http://www.pacfa.net.au) and subscribe yourself to the PACFA eNews? The CCAA eNews and website will also keep you up to date. An area of vital importance to CCAA is the changing landscape of professional counselling in Australia including the impact of medicare rebates. There is such diversity among us as Christian counsellors, yet we need each other as we continually redefine who we are professionally. I have noticed clients seem to be more astute than ever in choosing professional help. We need to give clear rationales for what we do, as fitting for client needs.

2008 has seen a wide range of Christian professional development events across Sydney, NSW and ACT. A highlight is the first ever Pastoral Counselling Conference, held in Canberra mid September. Helen Miller seeks a coming together between professional counsellors and pastoral counsellors. We don't have to live in separate worlds. CCAA has a role to play in providing a nesting place for both.

I am ever grateful for my wonderful executive committee: Sylvia Brew, Simon Foster, Adrienne McKeon, Wendy Rainer and Margaret Stehbins, with Janet Chapman managing the day to day admin. In looking over our current list of registered members in NSW, I am impressed and humbled by the long list for have served generously and laid a foundation in NSW over the last 10 years.

Your NSW committee has a vision bigger than our time and resources allow. For 2009, our priority in NSW is public relations, networking and resource sharing. We are taking three initiatives to increase referrals to CCAA registered members: a mailout to 450 churches, doubling our 2009 advertising in the Sydney Yellow Pages and the Christian Business Directory, and encouraging members without a website to attach an 'info page' to their listing on 'Find a Counsellor'.

We always appreciate helpers, whether contributing on a subcommittee, or being part of the executive committee. We use teleconferences for our subcommittees, so distance is not a reason to hold back from contributing. Please contact me if you'd like to join a team of fellow professional counsellors. Consider attending our AGM if you haven't been to one for a while, or been to one at all. Vanessa Chant is presenting on her research of Christian counsellors. See the attached flyer and website for details.

Your NSW committee has a heart for the big vision of CCAA. We would like to know more of the struggles you have professionally, that CCAA can mobilise around. We need each other. We counsellors can easily overlook own needs for being held and supported professionally.

Blessings,  
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