

The beauty of editing a journal that relies on unsolicited papers is that the findings which researchers want published are often cutting-edge and topical, while the theoretical papers frequently deal with issues that are central to the profession. This issue nicely illustrates this serendipity.

To start with, we are fortunate enough to be able to publish new research on workplace problems encountered by young people in Australia. While the implications for young people of the current industrial relations environment have not been a focus of public and media concern, the findings from this large quantitative study in Queensland suggest that pay-related disputes are a significant issue for young people.

Perhaps more widely discussed in the popular arena is the apparent political and civic disengagement of young people; however, research from another large study of young people, this time in Victoria, suggests that young people are very well connected through family, friends and sport, but less interested in being involved in political organisations. Perhaps, as Hugh McKay has suggested, in an environment where an increasing number of people may feel powerless in the face of constant and often distressing change, many young people focus on the stability and support offered by 'small picture' aspects of their lives.

An even more popular current topic in Australia is that of 'hoons' so it is timely that we are able to publish a theoretical paper that cuts through the

hysteria and hypocrisy to provide a sociological perspective on the purposes that hooning and other aspects of car culture play in young people's lives.

Following on from our June focus on the youth affairs conference hosted by YACVic, we feature two articles that continue the crucial discussion about the education and training of youth workers in this country. Each paper focuses on an important aspect of the current situation for youth worker education. Tim Corney and Robyn Broadbent outline the history of the development of the national youth work training package and sound the alarm about the growing privatisation and industry domination of youth worker training. Judith Bessant is also concerned, but her focus is on the rationalisation of stand-alone youth work university courses.

Finally, we feature a paper that throws up a challenge to youth work training. It is not, however, advocating change at the macro level but rather suggesting that a deconstructive approach used in conjunction with a social justice approach may allow youth workers to deal more effectively with societal changes resulting from both neoliberal and cross-cultural policy.

We believe that this issue of YSA is a 'classic'; we hope you agree.

Sue Headley

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