

President's Report

Annual General Meeting: 31 October, 2012

Dear Members,

2011-2012 has been a year of great success for the Association. Most significantly, the merger with the Victorian Offender Treatment Association (VOTA) has been unanimously supported by VOTA members. We are now one. The Association's funds have doubled due to cost cutting and profitable high quality training events undertaken in partnership with VOTA. Eight seminars and symposia have been conducted in the last 12 months. Further upgrades have been made to our website and another issue of our journal, SAANZ, has been published.

Finances:

The Treasurer's Report records a very healthy increase in total funds, being \$71,563. Don Mortensen, our Treasurer, reports that the current years financial results are due largely to increased training events most of which were profitable, resulting in a 25% increase in training revenue. It is understood that the Association's finances will soon be boosted by the donation of a considerable portion of VOTA funds following the merger.

Don Mortensen's financial stewardship has resulted in the financial success and overall professionalization of the Association's financial practices. Don took on the role of Treasurer four years ago. This year's Treasurer's report is a testament to his expertise in financial management. Don's financial wisdom is always matched by his enthusiasm for high quality training at affordable rates across Australia and New Zealand. We are very lucky to have had him as Treasurer and most fortunate that he is willing to continue on in the Treasurer's role for another term.

Merger:

ANZATSA was indeed very fortunate to have been provided pro bono legal services from Chris Greiner of Ryan Lawyers, Sydney. Chris provided us with clear advice about legally effective ways to proceed with VOTA on the merger proposal. Chris has made himself available on numerous occasions, including joining the Executive during a two-day meeting held one weekend. He also reviewed our legal status in Australia and has offered technical advice for us to consider. ANZATSA is extremely grateful to Ryan Lawyers and to Chris, personally, for making the legal issues intelligible to us and ultimately for putting us in a position where we have been able to make important decisions being fully aware of the complexity of the situation.

Workshops and Seminars:

Seven high quality workshops have been offered throughout Australia and New Zealand over the last 12 months by local and acclaimed international specialists in the field.

These comprise:

- Jane Gilgun (Auckland/Christchurch)
- John Caffaro (Auckland/Christchurch/Brisbane/Melbourne)
- Symposium (Melbourne 2011)
- Vicarious Trauma (Melbourne)
- Pamela Yates and Gwenda Willis presented on the Good Lives Model (Melbourne)

- James Ogloff on Risk Assessment (Melbourne)
- Adolescent Roundtable (Sydney)
- Girls 101 (Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane)

All training events have been well-received by participants and all suggested improvements for future training made by participants have been of great assistance to the Training Committee.

A number of events came to us as golden and somewhat unexpected opportunities that were too good to pass up. The fact that we have been able to have so many training events, often organised in record time is clear evidence of the skill and determination of all who made the events possible. I would like to express our gratitude to the Victorian Department of Justice for generously the funding the workshop offered by James Ogloff.

ANZATSA's 2012 training calendar has greatly benefited from joint events with VOTA as we have moved forward along the merger process. Jason Freeland, William Wainwright, Karla Lopez and Lachlan Durinck have made great efforts in making the joint training events such a success. One of the most obvious benefits of the merger with VOTA will be combination of richness that each organisation has to offer. The benefits of the merger are already evident in the training arena where fresh dialogue has resulted in more enthusiasm and productivity.

Again, we are grateful to Russell Pratt who has continued in the role of coordinating training across Australia and New Zealand. Along with the VOTA Executive named above, Russell and Dale Tolliday have continued to make an enormous contribution to ANZATSA's professional development activities particularly in Australia over the last 12 months. Equal thanks goes to the Association's Training Committee members in New Zealand: Don Mortensen and Nathan Gaunt who continue to build expertise in the organisation of such training events.

We were very sad to lose Rachel Hart from the Executive at the end of 2011. Rachel was a startling source of energy within the Executive who made a massive contribution to the Association's activities. Rachel was (and remains) an enthusiastic supporter of the ANZATSA's activities and she demonstrated a great flair for building the Association's relevance to members and collegiality.

Rachel was very successful in coordinating Sydney's Quarterly Professional Development Meetings. We are very grateful to Celia Langton for taking on this role and for maintaining the high standard set by Rachel and Katie Seidler before her. The PD meetings have continued to be very well attended. Topics presented in the last 12 months comprise:

- With the Victim in the Room: engaging in victim-focused work with offenders;
- NSW Sexual Assault Services: Supporting adults and children who have experienced sexual assault; and
- Adolescent sexual offending.

Professional Development meetings have also commenced in Auckland. We are grateful to Nathan Gaunt for heading up this new venture for New Zealand.

Cultural Awareness:

Dr Armon Tamatea has continued to refine the guidelines for working with cultural competence through ongoing consultation with Maori and Aboriginal education, health care and corrections professionals. Armon's approach to this task has been a model to us all by doing what Armon does best: practicing what he preaches. Armon's focus in seeking out the perspectives of indigenous members and colleagues has been first to develop relationships and build networks with, and

between, Maori and aboriginal professionals. We remain grateful to Armon for his guidance and his encouragement as an advocate for cultural awareness remaining a priority for ANZATSA .

Website :

The Association's website has continued to improve as a result of many hours of work undertaken by Miles Summers of Young Earth IT. The online 2012 Election is one example of the ongoing development of the website .We greatly appreciate the efforts of both Rachel Hart and Karla Lopez in their roles as Webmaster. With the merger process now complete, stay tuned for some exciting changes over the coming months.

Membership:

I am very pleased to advise that the newly merged ANZATSA has 342 active members from across Australia and New Zealand.

Kay Lancefield has very kindly taken on the role of Membership Coordinator from Katie Seidler, who needed to focus her efforts on the development of SAANZ. Kay has been a long serving member of various committees – most particularly the Membership Committee. She is perfectly placed to refine the processing of membership applications in the newly merged ANZATSA as she has been a long-term member of both ANZATSA and VOTA.

I would also like to also thank Nathan Gaunt and Armon Tamatea for their ongoing contribution to assessing membership applications in New Zealand.

SAANZ:

Another excellent issue of SAANZ has been produced this year .This achievement is very much due to great efforts of our editors, Associate Professor Douglas Boer and Dr Katie Seidler . Again, it has been difficult to produce a second issue (which is our target) as a result of the small number of article submissions. SAANZ only remains viable if both academics and practitioners offer material for publication. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all members to consider sharing the wealth of research and/or clinical experience in working with sexual abuse survivors and abusers. SAANZ is a peer reviewed journal so there are benefits for contributors as well as readers when articles reach publication .

We are very grateful to Doug for continuing in his role as Editor-In-Chief throughout last 12 months and we appreciate all his and Katie's efforts to attract and publish informative and interesting articles.

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The Workforce:

In the lead up to the merger, there have been a number of changes to the membership of the Executive. I would like to thank Melissa Braden and Karla Lopez for joining us this year. Both bring a wealth of experience to their respective roles as ANZATSA's Secretary and Webmaster. I believe Melissa and Karla will make great contributions to the Association in the coming years.

My final words are of the highest gratitude to all members of the Executive with whom I have worked throughout the last decade, and to the members of ANZATSA who have entrusted me with the roles of Treasurer and President. I have the greatest respect and genuine affection for each and every member of the Executive. I have learnt a great deal from each person who has served with me during my time. These include but are not limited to Nathan Gaunt, Rachel Hart, Don Mortensen, Russell Pratt, Katie Seidler, Tony Robinson, Armon Tamatea, Dale Tolliday, Jim Van Rensburg, and Victoria Weedon.

Gerard Webster
President

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