

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members

Welcome to a New Year at ASSERT NSW. We look forward to a productive and informative year to the benefit of our members.

We encourage all professional Members and students to take advantage of our educational meetings as a source of learning, networking and hours for professional accreditation. Our online NSW forum discussion group is also a vital resource for Supervision and learning.

A reminder that all 2007-2008 fees are now well overdue and if you wish to remain a member, please make sure that fees are paid ASAP.

Brett McCann is our new Vice-President and Margaret Redelman the Secretary so direct all your inquiries either to info@assertnsw.org.au or redels@medemail.com.au

Wishing all members a safe, healthy and productive year.



Maria Caetano
President Assert NSW



IN THIS EDITION

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ASSERT NSW EDUCATION MEETINGS

Tuesday, 13 May

Jo Anne Baker B.A. M.A. C.Psych

“Menopause and Positive Ageing”

Tuesday, 8th July

John Brown MSc, MHSc Counsellor/Consultant Five Islands Clinic, Port Kembla

“Child Internet Pornography”

Tuesday, 11th November

To be announced

Please write to us if you want a particular topic addressed and we will try to find an expert to present to us on that topic.

use condoms in casual relationships putting themselves and their partners at risk of sexually transmitted infections.

Australia has the highest vasectomy rate in the world. Used by 25% of the men surveyed. Only 9% regretted it.

Of the men over 40 years, 78% had sex in the year before the interview. 93% had a regular partner, with no differences across the age groups.

Of the 22% who said they had not had sex the previous year, 59% were married or de facto.

Men of all ages want sex more often, including those over 70 years and preferably twice a week.

14% of men had used commercial sex services at least once in their lives.

Please send in snippets you found interesting or controversial in the media.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING/S SUMMARY

The first Education meeting held 4th March was very informative and well attended. Sherin Jarvis who is a pelvic floor specialist physiotherapist presented “Physiotherapy and Pelvic Pain Disorders”. Sherin can be contacted at her Edgecliff practice on 9326 1995 or RWH 9382 6557.

INTERESTING NEWSPAPER ARTICLE – READ BY OUR PATIENTS/ CLIENTS

Natasha Wallace (Health Reporter) SMH 25.9.2008

“Older men ignoring safe sex”

Four in 10 middle-aged Australian men don't

INTERESTING JOURNAL ARTICLE

'Concepts of sexuality and health among Iranian women in Australia' Richters J. & Khoei EM. Australian Family Physician 2008 March: 37(3):190-192

There are about 19,000 Iranian immigrants in Australia. The women face difficulties using sexual and reproductive services in Australia due to differences to those in Iran where population control rather than sexual wellness is the focus. In Iran access to sexual and reproductive services requires the permission of the husband or father. No programs exist to address sexual assault, domestic violence or relationship difficulties, and abortion is illegal.

In this study 51 women, aged 19-82, 30 currently married, 9 divorced, 10 widowed and 2 never married were recruited in 2003-4. Thirty six of the women were not employed.

Topics such as pregnancy, contraception, periods, infections, hysterectomy, osteoporosis and hot flushes were major concerns. Sexual violence, sexual orientation, sexual difficulties or satisfaction were never mentioned. The reproductive life course was the sole framework within which women sought sexually related care. Iranian women regard themselves as sexually healthy when no gynaecological issues are experienced.

"Marital relationships" were private and not suitable

for public discussion even between women. Another difficulty is that Farsi has no specific polite words for genitalia or sexual activity. The euphemistic and allusive language used is not easily translatable and Iranian women feel that the more concrete English expressions are inadequate to express their feelings.

Women fail to seek help because of lack of knowledge and understanding of the services provided and often because of the belief that advice will be inappropriate for them culturally.

If you have read an article that presented something new, different or interesting, please send in a summary for all of us to share.

PHOTO/S FROM ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY

Margaret Redelman, President 2007 WAS Congress, Brett McCann, Vice-President ASSERT NSW, and Maria Caetano, President ASSERT NSW at the WAS 2007 Congress Gala Dinner.

Please send in your photos from ASSERT and related activities for us all to share.



UPCOMING CONFERENCES/MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

3rd Sexual Dysfunction Conference

**3rd – 6th April, Sheraton Mirage,
Gold Coast, Australia**

Conference Website

www.sdcongress2008.com



SKYPE MEETING SUMMARY

Dear ASSERT Members,
Just a note to update you on the progress of the web-group, ASSERT NSW FORUM & changes to peer supervision via conference call run by ASSERT NSW.

- 1) ASSERT NSW FORUM is a closed Yahoo Group for ASSERT NSW members created to facilitate communication & encourage exchange of ideas between ASSERT members. Presently, there is a resource section under files containing interesting lectures, recently attended workshops and client resources. There is also a links page of useful and sex relevant sites. Members are encouraged to share

their favorite resources and post communication regarding research, book launches etc. In the near future, post accreditation, ASSERT NSW FORUM will be used as a membership database, so that members will have access to information on members' specialties for the purpose of referral. To speed up the process of the database ASSERT NSW encourages members to join this forum now. To become member please write to Georgina Whelan on whelang@bigpond.net.au requesting membership.

- 2) PEER SUPERVISION via SKYPE conference call. Supervision has been

gathering momentum. Last conference on sexual offenders had a lot of interest and much discussion. Previous topics have included: same-sex parenting; consent for sexual intercourse (following request for submissions on proposed statutory amendments from NSW Attorney General); marriage for same-sex and gender diverse people; legal and medical issues surrounding sex and gender diverse people; case study on extra marital affairs.

Please let me know if you have a case to discuss. Ideally I will advertise two weeks prior, however, people

may attend and raise an issue. We are trying to assign topics so that members can plan to come if they are interested in a particular topic. **April** peer supervision is an unstructured case presentation. Peer supervision in **May** is planned for discussion on **Pornography** by Kath Albury from her book *The Porn Book Report*. Those who are interested are

advised to read the book prior to attending. **June** supervision will be a case discussion on **idiosyncratic masturbation styles and erectile dysfunction**.

Members who would like to be involved will need to download SKYPE 3.1 from the web, **www.SKYPE.com**, and let GEORGINA WHELAN **whelag@bigpond.net.au** know you are interested. The conference will be conducted by

an ASSERT NSW committee member who will invite those members who have expressed interest (usually Georgina). The maximum number is 9 per session. Sessions will be run on the **FIRST MONDAY** of the **MONTH** between 8-9pm. For those who are not familiar with the technology please take a moment to practice with the software please note a headset will reduce interference.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES – BOOKS, ARTICLES, COMMENTS IN THE MEDIA ETC

1 'The Porn Report' by Kath Albury and Alan McKee

The results of The Understanding Pornography in Australia study are finally in book form. The Porn Report hit the shelves on Feb 28. An extract appeared in The Weekend Australian Magazine in March 2008.

Website:

http://www.thepornreportbook, with links & supplementary

resources.

Kath (an ASSERT NSW member) is an ARC Postdoctoral Fellow at the Journalism and Media Research Centre at the University of NSW. She has lectured in Media and Communications and Gender and Cultural Studies at the University of Sydney.

Kath has also worked with rugby league players. The project won a NSW

Premier's Violence Against Women Prevention Award in 2005. Her current research, a collaboration between UNSW, the National Rugby League and the NSW Rape Crisis Centre will expand and extend this work.



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⌘ Menopause

Looking at the psychological, emotional and physical changes during this stage of a woman's life. Information on hormonal changes and natural or synthetic HRT treatments will be expanded.

Presented by

Jo-Anne Baker B.A. M.A. C.Psych.

Esme R. Homes MA.C.Psych Grad.Dip.Clin.DD Dip.C.Art

Further Information 02-9361 0433 www.positive-ageing.com