

President's Letter

Welcome ASSERT NSW Members,

It is with excitement that I take the position of President of ASSERT NSW, as we are now moving into the next development stage of introducing the sexologist accreditation process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new ASSERT committee. I am sure this dynamic team will steer ASSERT NSW in the right direction.

ASSERT NSW plans to continue its valuable education meetings as well as looking for more opportunities to provide clinical supervision. The committee is full of energy, having just completed a very successful conference.

I would also like all the members to know that they are welcome to attend any of the committee meetings and to place any items on the committee's agenda. This can be done by emailing to info@assertnsw.org.au.

Kind regards,

Brett McCann



Brett McCann

Report From ASSERT NSW AGM 13.1.2009

New Committee for 2009

President: Brett McCann

Vice-President: Desiree Spierings

Treasurer: Matty Silver

Secretary: Margaret Redelman

Student Rep: Alison Macbeth

Education Meeting Coordinator:
Mandy Goldman

General Committee Member:

Judith Krause & Elaine Carnevale

Accreditation sub-committee: Brett McCann, Desiree Spierings, Judith Krause, Stephen Carroll, Elaine Carnevale, Cc Margaret Redelman

Suggested topics for education meetings:

- Relationship Therapy
- Sexuality impact from infertility and infertility management
- The sexual abuse of males, victims and perpetrators
- Sex life & single parents
- Self disclosure to clients and patients, round table discussion with moderator

Please contact Mandy Goldman if you have suggestions.

Use of ASSERT NSW database of members is to be accessible only to ASSERT members through the secretary and for promotion of own work that would be of benefit to members. There was some discussion as to whether we should charge a fee for advertising members/non-members activities.

The possibility of an ASSERT grant was raised.

It was decided to publish 3 editions of ASSERT NSW Newsletter per year. Feb/March, June/July, Oct/Nov

The ASSERT NSW computer is very old and breaks down. If anyone has a PC they do not want please contact the committee as it will go to a good home.

Editor: Dr Margaret Redelman

Assistant: Desiree Spierings

Report from ASSERT National AGM 28/11/2008

NEW ASSERT NATIONAL COMMITTEE

President: Margaret Redelman
Vice President: Frances D'Arcy
Treasurer: Brett McCann
Secretary: Jane Keany

General members representing the States:

Di Luckhurst-Smith - SA
 Dianne Ervine - SA
 Jocelyn Klug - Qld
 Lynda Carlyle - Vic
 Frances D'Arcy-Tehan - Vic
 Gabrielle Morrissey interested in Qld

The committee endorsed the Accreditation and Ethics protocols. Each state now has the task of encouraging all their members to submit the new paperwork and for the accreditation committees to start the process.

WASS resignation letter and ASSERT National response were tabled and accepted. It is very sad that the National has lost the membership of its WA colleagues but the differences in professional views and attitudes to progress were not compatible.



It is better that the Sexual Health Community is served with the choice of 2 organisations working productively to meet varied needs. It is hoped that an ASSERT branch can be established in WA with time.



Dr. Margaret Redelman
 Dr. Patricia Weerakoon

Report from ASSERT NSW Conference 28-29/11/2008

The conference was considered very successful by the 100 plus registrants and presenters. This is especially significant given the very short time that ASSERT NSW had to put the conference together.

The only detraction was that we did not have enough time to have members research and poster presentations. We hope that this will be an important feature in future ASSERT conferences.

The conference could not have been so successful without the hard work of Maria Caetano and Patricia Weerakoon and we thank them.

The invited speakers Dr Pat Koch and Dr Kevan Wylie brought new knowledge, enthusiasm and sense of international

sexual health community to Sydney. The variety of topics addressed by our national speakers was very stimulating.

Dr Patricia Weerakoon and Dr Margaret Redelman were presented with Life Membership of ASSERT NSW in recognition of the work they have done for ASSERT NSW. They join Dr Derek Richardson, Dr Jules Black and Dr Chris McMahon in members who have received this honour.

The next ASSERT Conference is scheduled for 2010 in Queensland. Then 2012 will be in Victoria.



Dr. Pat Koch



Dr. Kevan Wylie

Canberra Book Club

Canberra gets going!

ASSERT NSW members in Canberra have created a bookclub! The aim of the club is to expand our knowledge of things sexual by sharing the info we've gleaned from reading books, journal articles, websites, viewing dvds etc.

How it works is that each month we set a topic that each member explores in our own way, reading on that topic rather than reading a particular text. We ask ourselves what we've learned through our reading that was particularly relevant, interesting, puzzling, valuable etc and then discuss it. Given our busy lives, we try not to create an undue load on ourselves by expecting to have read extensively. We want this club to be viable, not be another stress on our already stretched lives with members withdrawing due to additional load. One generous soul takes brief minutes which she puts in an email with a reminder of the next topic and meeting date. This provides a record for those who want to revisit the topic and useful references. We're also using email to circulate other

items of interest.

The topics we've looked at so far are:

- sex and humour
- Bdsm
- cybersex and people with disabilities

What I'm noticing about bookclub is that it's created an opportunity for people in Canberra with diverse professional backgrounds to network about things sexual. In a larger city there'd probably be a number of colleagues from similar professional backgrounds that you might meet via your professional association. But in a smallish place, this rarely happens, so bookclub pulls us together and we apply our diversity to the topic of the day. One of my bookclub colleagues wrote:

I really enjoyed last night, good discussions and interactions, lovely company.

Jane Keany



Dr. Jane Keany

Member's Attendance at International Conferences

10th Asia Oceania Conference for Sexology
 Beijing 15-19 Oct. 2008

Joint Congress of the ESSM and ISSM
 Brussels 7-11 Dec. 2008



Left:
 Dr. Margaret Redelman
 Jenny Collier

Right:
 Dr. Ven Tan
 Dr. Margaret Redelman
 Dr. Michael Lowy
 Dr. Rosie King

Member's Activities

Workshop by: Dr Sandra Pertot
 Clinical Psychologist & Sex Therapist

Mismatched Libidos: Helping couples face the challenges of differences in sexual expectations, wants and needs.

Sydney: Thursday 12 – Friday 13 February 2009 Venue: Rydges North Sydney, 54 McLaren Street, North Sydney

Orange: Saturday 28 – Sunday 29 March 2009 Venue: Greentrees Guest House, 6 Lysterfield Road, Orange NSW



Dr. Sandra Pertot

Interesting Organization

Interesting organization/website

National Sexuality Resource Center

www.nsrc.sfsu.edu

nsrcinfo@sfsu.edu

Five ideas for a sexually healthy holiday

Skype Supervision Notice

Skype Peer Supervision meetings have been cancelled and an interactive blog type supervision/ correspondence is being explored.

Media Snippets

GW SMH August 16, 2008

"When your husband is gay"

Sensitively written article which hopefully helped but the women and the men involved and those still struggling in the community.

GW SMH Sept. 20, 2008

Sitting on a plane next to someone reading a porn magazine?

Pornography is a personal choice, but strapped in a seat at 35,000 feet limits your choice.

Options- tell him his magazine is making you feel uncomfortable (possibly reaction he wanted)

Ask to be moved to another seat

Ask him to read the magazine elsewhere

? not appropriate for public reading with children and those offended exposed.

SMH November 23, 2008

"Motorbike riders risk impotence"

Most seats too hard. Risk impotence and urinary problems because vibrations of the engine damage nerves in their penises.

Australian Doctor October 31, 2008

Carers in New Zealand were investigated after allegations they were ordered to help intellectually impaired people to masturbate. Reported in the Nelson Mail.

Australian Doctor November 7, 2008

"Caution on teen viewing"

A study of children 12-17 looked at exposure to televised sexual content and subsequent pregnancy in girls and responsibility for pregnancy in boys.

Those exposed to the highest levels of televised sexual content (90th percentile) were twice as likely to experience a pregnancy in the following 3 years as those with the lowest level of exposure (10th percentile). Pediatrics 2008;122:1047-54



SUPERVISION OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking to increase the peer supervision that is available to ASSERT NSW members.

If you are interested in setting up supervision, please let us know, so we can let members know.

In this way we can help grow our professional knowledge and look after ourselves emotionally.

Professionals who work in isolation, especially in such sensitive areas as sexuality and intimate relationship run the risk of crossing boundaries.

The Australian Centre for Sexual Health is inviting members of the NSW ASSERT to join its Wednesday night monthly peer group supervision starting the 11th of Feb. Supervision is held from 7 till 8.30 pm at suite 2-4/1A Berry Rd St Leonard's.

Members include: Sexual health physicians; sex and relationship counsellor; psychotherapists and sex therapist and psychologist. Interested parties should contact Georgina Whelan on whelang@bigpond.net.au or at ACSH on: 9437 3906 (Thursday or Friday)

Important

The Newsletter is YOUR way of sharing.

Please send us your photo's and/or stories that relate to sexual health, which other members might enjoy.

NEXT WAS CONGRESS

XIX World Congress of Sexual Health 21-25 June 2009 in GÖTEBORG, SWEDEN

Take the opportunity to be a part of an outstanding World Congress

- Current and pioneering research presented by renowned researchers.
- Scientific programme addressing the most important issues from a global, cross-cultural perspective.
- Unique opportunity for professional training.
- Century-old tradition of sexual health promotion in Sweden.
- Top modern congress facilities in the heart of the city.
- Stunning archipelago and a buzzing city centre.

Welcome

WAS and the Swedish Association for Sexology (SFS) in cooperation with the Nordic Sexology Associations of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland and Norway, Göteborg University and RFSU (the Swedish Association for Sexuality Education).



Sexual Health Promotion - A Global Challenge