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# Child and Youth Care

A Journal for Those Who Work With Children and Youth at Risk and Their Families

A Study of Youth in Children's Homes: Some Reflections on their Personal Lives

By Dr Bala Mudaly

Tracing our History: Contextualising Child and Youth Care within a South African Reality

By Merle Allsopp

The Zambian Association of Child and Youth Care Workers (ZACCW) Moves Ahead

By Kathy Scott



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# Making Things Happen

By Merle Allsopp

An inspiring 'story' in this issue of Child and Youth Care is that told by Kathy Scott of the startling growth of the Zambian Association of Child Care Workers. In their infancy, the organization is already planning to take child and youth care training to rural areas, is training child and youth care work to personnel from other sectors, has employed two persons and (I hear through the grapevine), may be training in surrounding countries soon. This growth will undoubtedly be to the benefit of the SADC region as a whole, and is perhaps testimony to what people working in the lifespace of young people generally say upon discovering the child and youth care body of knowledge...."this actually works!" Congratulations to the leadership of the ZACCW for making things happen in this way.

And on the subject of making things happen, we are proud to bring your attention to the fact that this issue of Child and Youth Care is 100% local! The issue came together in its usual organic fashion, so it was not planned in this way, and no one person can take credit for this. But what it does indicate is that South African child and youth care work is in the process of generating a body of literature of its own! There is enough written in the field for a proudly South African issue of Child and Youth Care to be unconsciously assembled. We must take our hats off to both the regular and sporadic contributors. Well done, and thank you for promoting the 'local is lekker' concept!

And further on making things happen...recently I was fortunate

enough to attend the AGM of a child and youth care center that has systematically worked to transform services to meet community needs. Reflecting the South African reality, the event contrasted extremes of economic realities, with well-healed Board members and community members connecting in the shared task of contributing to the well-being of the community and the organization. Residential care has been reduced at this facility, and four separate community-based projects introduced. The staff capacity has been built to maintain these many different programs, volunteers have been recruited and the Department is finally in support! The transformation of the child and youth care system can only happen if child and youth care leaders make it happen - in the context of less than adequate resources.

And lastly, a watch-this-space message on making things happen on the Children's Bill...The Children's Bill Working Group, ably led by the Children's Institute of the University of Cape Town, but being truly representative of all the sub-sectors in services to children and families, having been extremely successful in lobbying on the Section 75 hearings of the Bill, is planning to mount advocacy campaigns on the Section 76 Bill. This section covers all areas where provincial authorities take responsibility for services, and includes chapters pertaining to child and youth care centers, shelters and drop in centers, alternative care, foster care, prevention services and early intervention services. It is likely that much debate will ensue, so colleagues who want to have their voices heard are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Section 76 Bill, and make submissions. Child and Youth Care will continue to report on the proceedings, and wishes the hardworking Working Group well as it makes things happen on the legislative front! ●

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**NACCW**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHILD CARE WORKERS

**The National Association of Child Care Workers is an independent, non-profit organisation in South Africa which provides the professional training and infrastructure to promote healthy child and youth development and to improve standards of care and treatment for troubled children and youth at risk in family, community and residential group care settings.**

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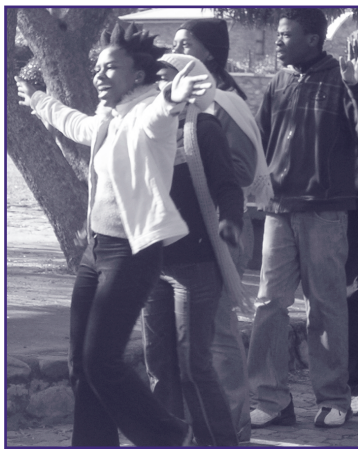


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