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NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR:

It would seem we have a Federal Election on the horizon, with Early Intervention being touted as a feature diversion strategy for both the Labor Party and the Coalition (don't mention the GST or Roll back...). Short of using my editorial position as a platform to expound my somewhat disillusioned view on the political landscape, I will venture this opinion - At least Early Intervention is on the tongues of our politicians. When the election becomes a distant memory and it's viral media conveyance becomes tomorrow's fish and chip wrappers it will be up to us to use this opportunity to maintain visibility of the issue in the wider community. I invite you to submit any ideas on how AAIMH could be a louder voice.

This edition comes to you as a precursor to the National Conference to be held in WA. I have kept it fairly simple with a fascinating article on international adoption by Sarah Jones. The WA branch was able to put together an interesting piece on the fun of organising a conference, food for thought.

There will be much on our minds with the conference ahead so please come and say hello to me if you're in Fremantle, I look forward to meeting you.

Best wishes,
Victor Evatt.

2000 - 2001 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2001 (NSW)

Sydney Institute for Psycho - Analysis launches a Programme of Public Lectures.

See Pages 11 - 12 for details.

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2001 (Western Australia)

AAIMH National Conference in Perth: the dates for the Conference: 30th of August to 1st of September 2001 inclusive. The pre conference workshop is on 29th of August and is run by Aleisha Lieberman. There is also a post conference workshop on 3.9.01, with Mary Sue Moore.

If you haven't received the flyer for the conference, please contact:

Keynote Conferences

P.O.Box 1126 West Leederville WA 6901

Tel: (08) 9382 3799

Fax (08) 9380 4006

Email: keynote@ca.com.au

Editorial Staff

Editor:
Victor Evatt

Newsletter Design
Vladimir Tretyakov

The AAIMH Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health

Please address all suggestions on content to :
Victor Evatt
P.O. Box 3
Paddington NSW 2021
Tel: 0418 231 635
vevatt@tech2u.com.au

All comments and suggestions on design and distribution:
Vladimir Tretyakov
(02) 9326 3770
tretyakov@go.com

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THE SMALLEST AMBASSADORS:

Adopting Chinese Babies

A short story by Ms. Sarah Jones, Couple and Family Therapist, Melbourne

Piers and Anna, a middle class couple, were not surprised to discover in their early thirties that they were infertile. Piers had contracted the Mumps as a child and was told in his late teens that this may inhibit his fertility. It was one of the first things he told his medical wife, Anna, when they met. The investigations they sought from their doctor confirmed that Piers' sperm count was very low although Anna most probably could have conceived. Older than her husband by a couple of years, and with a confusing but long held general lack of maternal desire, Anna had not really considered that one day she might want to be a mother. When Anna turned forty there was a sudden change. Her casual "if it happens then it happens" attitude turned to an urgency that surprised her. Artificial Insemination by Donor was not acceptable. The IVF stories from friends and the media scared them, despite encouragement from their Obstetrician. Together Anna and Piers agreed to seek out information about other ways to get a baby. Anxious about what people might think about them adopting a child, they secretly contacted an adoption agency in their Northern European city.

Once they immersed themselves in the process they could see this journey could obsess them. Just collecting and giving information as prospective adoptive parents was so much more complicated than they anticipated. In a way this also gave them more hope. Grief at not conceiving naturally could now be channeled into embarking on the adoptive parent program. They were not surprised to hear that getting a baby was going to be difficult and their best chances lay in overseas adoption. They were told by a friend about CanAdopt, an overseas adoption agency. At the couple's first contact with CanAdopt they both took time to view the notice board near the entrance of the downtown offices. Photos of smiling faces of dark skinned children in the arms of fair blond parents reassured them their desire for an overseas born child was not unusual.

They learnt that CanAdopt was government auspiced. That relieved Anna enormously. She'd had dreams of babies stealthily being stolen from their mothers' arms, both mother and babe crying uncontrollably. She particularly had felt burdened of guilt; wanting to have her desire for motherhood met at the expense of another woman's grief. Piers was not told these fantasies. Yet

when one of the CanAdopt workers made a time to come and see them at home the tears that flooded out of them in front of the stranger in their living room surprised them both.

They learnt that CanAdopt was part of an International Child Care Association, authorised by the Ministry of Justice. It was well established, which was another thing they liked about it. As it was set up in 1960 as a non-profit organisation and still going strong, then hundreds of parents must legitimately have been given foreign babies. Anna read every word in every brochure. Finally after reading that "legislation under the Adoption Act stipulates that adoption may be granted where it is assumed, according to enquires made, that adoption will be beneficial to the adoptee" she gave the green light to her conscience.

The couple's assessment interviews were surprisingly more stressful than they anticipated. The social worker from CanAdopt came on a Saturday morning and stayed for several hours. The question which upset Anna most

"The idea of adopting a Chinese baby was put to them by CanAdopt. It appealed to both of them. They had heard that there was only an eight-month wait to get a baby from China. Korean babies take 2 years. They could not possibly wait that long."

was the one about how would they feel if they did not get accepted for the program. Anna was used to being in charge of conducting medical interviews; she was outraged that the question was even asked. Piers' experience of human behaviour as an organisational consultant enabled him to see that the question was in fact a good one. He knew they had been consumed with this process and that rejection, although unlikely, was also real. Were they too old to be doing this? Was the possible change to their lives worth this amount of scrutiny, money, time and emotional cost? He had grown used to the idea of not being a father, so the challenge for him was not so

much missing out on being a father but the problem of being one.

The idea of adopting a Chinese baby was put to them by CanAdopt. It appealed to both of them. They had heard that there was only an eight-month wait to get a baby from China. Korean babies take 2 years. They could not possibly wait that long. The one draw back was that Chinese babies were available for foreigners only if they

"They then heard that couples wanting more than one baby got a "normal one" first and special needs babies were offered subsequently. It made both Piers and Anna nervous. They were not sure what they would be offered, and had been told that no one ever "sends one back"."

were "special needs babies". But on further enquiries it seemed that this term could mean anything. They then heard that couples wanting more than one baby got a "normal one" first and special needs babies were offered subsequently. It made both Piers and Anna nervous. They were not sure what they would be offered, and had been told that no one ever "sends one back".

Anna discovered at the Chinese end that there is an entire system called the Adoption Affairs Department, Ministry of China. This is the official department that arranges all overseas adoptions through the large number of official government orphanages. The orphanages provide basic information on the young children in their care. Once a request is formally received, documentation about an appropriate child is collected. This is often extremely minimal. There is a physical report on the baby's health prepared by a Chinese doctor, and a small photograph. Sometimes there may be scant details on where or how the baby was found. They had heard of one British couple who discovered, to their delight, that the "special needs" child they were anxiously expecting climbed into their arms 8 months later with no sign at all of the reported orthopaedic deformity. Not convinced of their impression, their Harley Street physician confirmed the baby's good health.

Piers and Anna were told that generally children are adopted from the ages of eight months to three years. They then gleaned that the age of the infant eventually handed over is calculated on the adoptive parents' combined age! If Piers and Anna were more than a combined age of 90 years (which they weren't) they would have been offered a child of one year or more, with an increase pro rata in the age of the child. The ruling is that older parents get older children using this formula. Yet for American couples the formula is based on the combined age of 100 years of the couple. All the Chinese adoption information emphasised that China is "very proud of these babies". Anna silently wondered how they could argue

that as a nation which greatly treasures its children, China is sending "the smallest ambassadors", overseas.

China's famous "one child policy", the country's poverty and its well known economic-gender bias for a boy underpins most of the reasons for the volume of spare girl babies. As they expected it is true that it is mostly girls who are adopted. Although CanAdopt tells parents 99% of the Chinese children available are girls, in the past year it also arranged adoptions for six boys, most with special needs. They also discovered that CanAdopt is a small fish in the large adoption sea. As CanAdopt is essentially a service for their own small country it does not have the American approach with direct connections, funding offers and workers within the Chinese orphanages.

The total cost for each couple to adopt a Chinese baby is approximately US\$10,000. Piers and Anna had reasonably large incomes and a long period of childlessness helped pay this sum. The price included all administration work in China, plus reports and translations. It also included costs for collecting the child within China, internal flights, hotel accommodation, meals, Chinese passport costs etc. Only the international return airline tickets were excluded. Anna's health oriented mind was keen to know just how much of that went to caring for these little orphan children before the administrators' cut. She had been told the babies or toddlers usually come to their new parents only in the clothes they are wearing; favorite toys are left behind. Is it really true that the orphanages are too poor to lose a toy with each child? Hadn't they heard of transitional objects, she wondered?

After six months from first contacting CanAdopt they had "passed" their adoptive parents' test, and had filled out the forms the Chinese government require. Alone these forms cost US \$1,000 - some of this goes to processing the forms by the Chinese government and for the cost of

" They had been told very early on that they were not entitled to choose the sex of the child, nor the age. They had also been told unofficially that the American couples get 4,000 of the 6,000 Chinese babies adopted each year. They also get the young ones because of the high demand on this age group."

translation to Chinese. They had been told very early on that they were not entitled to choose the sex of the child, nor the age. They had also been told unofficially that the American couples get 4,000 of the 6,000 Chinese babies adopted each year. They also get the young ones because of the high demand on this age group. The Americans have set up "Mother's Love" and "Hope", Orphanages supported by American volunteers who want to provide prospective little American citizens with more personal care than is normally available in the provincial orphanages. The advantage for the American adoptive parents collecting Chinese babies is that there is often

much better recording of the children's activities, behaviour and development. This assistance is very useful when you consider that there are 200 – 300 babies and children per orphanage with only two staff members for every 10 to 15 children. They appeared to run on very minimal resources. Prospective parents are not able to witness for themselves where their children spent their first months of life. The Chinese forbid this.

Collecting the baby involves a very important ritual. This is orchestrated at the prospective parent's hotel where,

"She explained that when the Chinese child goes to the foreign parent all they see at first were big, big eyes. That young child has only seen big eyes when someone is very cross with her. The white face and the big eyes creates fear in the little person."

the Civil Affairs official of the province and the orphanage leader and caregivers are invited to the ceremony.

Piers and Anna were very relieved when nearly a year from when they had first heard of CanAdopt they were told that a baby was waiting for them, a little girl. However this meant that they were even more impatient to collect her, and found the wait of an extra 8 weeks very frustrating. The delay was due to the current system, which requires their government to approve the adoption after the Chinese have. Their government accepted their little girl on their behalf, but before this step a local social worker and doctor were required to look at the child's records. As these had first to be posted, translated, and then a report prepared before the official papers are ready, another month was added to the wait. Those papers were then sent to China's Adoption Affairs department. Three to four weeks later the family was invited to come to China to collect their child.

Anna was glad she had met so many other CanAdopt graduates by the time it came to book their Beijing flights. It meant she was well informed about the way CanAdopt works in partnership with the government run Chinese Travel Service. It still surprised them that there was an entire government department entirely devoted to arranging foreign adoptions. Although there were opportunities to travel with a small package tour of other couples with a similar mission, Piers and Anna chose to come alone. It felt too private an experience to turn it into a group event. Even so they began to realise they were just one of 6,000 plus couples a year going on this extraordinary pilgrimage. They were like all the other couples, needing to be welcomed, oriented and to get to remote areas of the country. The Travel Service worker's knew all about the legal requirements of each country for taking children out of China. They also seemed to be in tune with this bizarre state of affairs that strangers come to their country and take home their homeland's surplus babies. They met national and local guides who "do" only adoption tours. They all work in partnership with hotels

and restaurants in the provinces. At first this seemed a bit seedy but after being involved with this unusual process it also made things more normal, streamlined and official, Baby trading is good for business.

Of the hundreds of people they had met during the course of this journey, there was one particular woman who stood out. She was an English woman, employed by the Chinese government to guide over the twenty five couples a year from their own country through the process. She was not trained in children, adoption processes or even in the health field. But it was this English woman, with out the formal qualifications who prepared the couple most, in particular for how their baby might respond when taken from her familiar carers to her foreign parents. She said that watching babies at this critical time had taught her to anticipate two common reactions. When the infants are given to the parents they sometimes start to scream and scream; sometimes this distress will go on for a few days, then usually settle. Other times the babies are initially very quiet and subdued but then, sometimes days later will protest with such strength the new parents become very upset themselves. What this woman said to them stayed with Anna for many years later. In that over bright, gold wall papered hotel room in Beijing before they flew down to the South Chinese province was that Piers and Anna must trust their intuition. She explained that when the Chinese child goes to the foreign parent all they see at first were big, big eyes. That young child has only seen big eyes when someone is very cross with her. The white

"Anna's medical knowledge, which she had mistaken as training for motherhood, turned out to be the opposite. Ordinary childhood illnesses became Paediatric emergencies, as common sense evaporated with her own daughter's occasional physical symptoms."

face and the big eyes creates fear in the little person. Let her see you are not a ghost. Whereas you feel that you are gaining everything she is losing everything she knows. Let her mourn, let her grieve her past.

Their own little daughter did neither. She seemed sleepy when she arrived at the hotel in the arms of a sad woman who herself may have been grieving. The language barrier meant all their questions were not really asked or answered. The whole experience was quite overwhelming and left them just amazed at the healthy 10- month old infant who was now theirs.

Anna recalls almost nothing of the handing over process. They have photos of the ritualised welcomes, cups of tea and formal farewells with orphanage staff and the province officials. She did remember the moment the officials came in alone, and for a second she was convinced that the whole thing had been an expensive hoax. Then she saw Xiao Po. Piers and Anna had finally become parents.

Once home in their usually cold country Xiao Po initially seemed more comfortable with Piers. Was it his voice or his dark skin that was reassuring? Maybe he was just more calm. The little girl often looked bewildered, and then upset. For several weeks she was quiet, and anxious if one of them left the room. They were careful not to show the whites of their eyes too much!

Anna's medical knowledge, which she had mistaken as training for motherhood, turned out to be the opposite. Ordinary childhood illnesses became Paediatric emergencies, as common sense evaporated with her own daughter's occasional physical symptoms. Then she was able to recall the words of the English woman, "let her mourn, let her grieve her past". Finally these ideas, enabled Anna and Piers to tolerate the "waiting". Not the waiting of the beauracratic process or the wait of the long distance emotional journey until the baby was home. But the slow, silent psychological waiting; learning from their baby, watching her cues. Anna's reading of notions like "impingement" and "attunement" started to sink in. She became more careful not to rush, not assume this baby was as ready to be "theirs" as they were for her to be "ours".

Initially they joined the self- help group for post-adoption families. There was one group, which consisted entirely of couples who went as a package tour to collect their Chinese infants. They showed slides and videos of the group with empty prams on their way to the airport and full prams on they way home. Anna stopped going after

"Victoria overseas adoptions began to trickle in from the late 1960ies. It accepted two Korean orphans in 1966. It is thought that other babies were being smuggled into Australia before and during this time."

that, she wanted to just get on with being parents to Xiao Po in their own way, not bonded to a group that did in this bizarre way.

It took up a lot of their marital life to have a child of their own. Those from an adoption group who got children at the same time are almost five now. The children have quite a social group, and some of those other adoptive parents are now friends, with whom they have shared something deeply personal. Piers likes having contact with them. Most of them had a down to earth approach to parenting their different- coloured children. Their daughter has a few Chinese friends and also some Korean and Indian friends, courtesy of CanAdopt. Anna did not stay joined with the other adopted parents, although secretly she quite liked Piers doing so. She had done a Literature Search and knew the controversy on inter-country adoptions, that the psychological outcomes for these children can be very unpredictable. She was thankful that Piers did actually like going to the social events; and she never told anyone that for her CanAdopt felt a bit like an insurance policy.

In years to come Piers and Anna often looked back on that silent, watchful child who arrived that day. The child Xiao Po became still had a watchful manner, "slow to warm up" some well meaning Pediatrician had said. She was also engaging, quiet spoken, hesitant, but showed great affection to both her new parents, and academically possibly brighter than both of them. Her parents felt lucky, but they could not rest on the assumption she felt that too.

(Although the narrative is entirely fictitious, the detail of the adoption process is accurate for one Northern European country. That country's adoption worker in Beijing was agreeable to an interview for publication when I met with her in late 1998. However, on completion of the article the auspicious adoption agency did not consent for the country to be identified.)

THE AUSTRALIAN STORY

- **Inevitably if there are babies being offered in other parts of the world, childless couples will be looking for them.**

The Age in 1998 reported that "inter-country adoptions are the responsibility of state and territory authorities who assess and approve prospective adoptive parents and negotiate with overseas authorities". Victoria overseas adoptions began to trickle in from the late 1960ies. It accepted two Korean orphans in 1966. It is thought that other babies were being smuggled into Australia before and during this time. There is an account of five children being smuggled into Melbourne from Saigon in 1972. In the early 70'ies Vietnamese orphans were being accepted and by 1977 the NSW government signed an agreement with a South Korean welfare society that a minimum of 100 babies would be supplied. It was not until 1984 that the Victorian Adoption Act allowed recognition of foreign adoptions. Two years later Australia's social welfare ministers agreed on a national code to prevent Australians adopting children from other countries without regard to the natural parents, the adoption laws of the child's country and the requirements of Australia's state welfare departments.

- **What is the Australian Government's approach to adoption of foreign babies?**

The approach has developed from one of informal arrangements to highly legalised protocols, which delayed the Chinese government's approval of Australia as an acceptable country for its surplus babies.

- **The Volume?**

The number of Australian children adopted has fallen considerably over the past thirty years. Victoria had about 1,790 children adopted in 1968. By 1993 there were only 101. This 1990's figure represents a proportion of the

dramatic decline of the Australian wide adoptions which peaked in 1971-72 when numbers of adoptions reached almost 10,000. Of the 577 adoptions recorded in Australia in 1997-98, more than 42% of children were born overseas. "The Australian" newspaper reported that, (6th March 1999, "since 1981-2 adoptions of overseas children have increased by 50% from 162 to 245 in 1997-98.

Victoria now has inter-county adoption agreements with 15 countries, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Thailand.

• **The Price of a Child?**

NSW \$2,853	WA \$1736	NT \$5300
VIC \$6035	SA \$5550	ACT \$2073
QLD \$641	TAS \$2000	
Department of Immigration:		\$1060
Overseas Agency:		US \$4,000 to \$7,000

(figures quoted from The Australian, 6th March 1999)

In 1998 Victorians adopted 48 overseas born children, although there are literally hundreds of applications. The above figures are for the formal costs, but anecdotally couples talk of the cost being more like \$20,000.

There has been a lot of media coverage over the past twelve months on inter-country adoption. The Age ran three articles in 1998 and The Australian filled nearly two thirds of a page on this issue very recently (6-7th March, 1999, page 7.) This paper ran the article with the provocative heading " *Chance to Dip into China's Baby Pool*". One common point of interest in all these articles is the agreements Australia has with a number of other countries about their young babies and children coming into Australia. Although these articles highlight the issues of the unavailability of Australian babies for adoption and the increase in inter-country adoption not one of these accounts actually looks at the main issue from the babies' point of view. It appears from reading these articles that two incredibly important aspects of the debate has been overlooked One is the current research on inter-country post adoption findings. Two is the actual legal status of these babies.

The Australian legislation that relates to inter-country appears to be different from that of the country described above. Whereas couples from that Northern European

country adoptive babies being given Chinese passports and then their own passports immediately following the hand over of the child to the prospective parents. This step is delayed considerably for foreign babies coming into Australia. "The Australian" newspaper reports that changes to the Family Law Act in 1998 improved the legal status for babies born overseas. Victoria, working on behalf of other States and territories has been involved with protracted negotiations with China's Civil Affairs Ministry in Beijing. The Chinese had been unhappy with the previous legalities related to their babies, which meant that Canberra had required the foreign children to become wards of the Minister for Immigration. They were unsatisfied with the legislation that trans-national adoptions were not automatically recognised under Australian law. Apparently this is the same in United Kingdom. These children were effectively Stateless for up to six months until their adoption was officially endorsed. The Chinese Ministry's spokesperson Zhang Hongchang said that they did not accept the Australian convention that when a child is adopted there is a trial period of a number of months. As advocates for these children the Chinese believe this trial period has a negative impact on the child. Hongchang stated that this is why there has been difficulty in reaching an agreement with Australia. China's Civil Affairs Ministry requires the adoptions to be recognised as legitimate as they are under Chinese law. The negotiations have been successful and the long awaited deal is reportedly close to being finalised. Legal barriers have been removed, and there will be therefore more Chinese babies available for Australian parents.

• **AAIMH'S role?**

AAIMH as an association dedicated to the mental health of infants we may have a role in public advocacy for these infants. What studies are there on the impact of adoption on these infant's children? Our organisations role is not just one of watching, waiting and working with them as they enter Australian society, but also advocating for infant centered practices. It seems China is advanced in promoting legislation that entitles them to citizen status from the moment they are adopted. What information and guidance is given to the prospective parents, and how can they be best helped? Can we have a role in infant centered training for all professionals involved. They may be China's smallest ambassadors but how do we know what they need most from the governments, the professional systems and from their families?

References:

Carson, A. "The Age", The Story So Far, Overseas Adoptions, 24.8.1998, (p 6)

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**RANZCP NSW Branch Section of
Psychotherapy**

in association with

NSW Institute of Psychiatry

invites you to a

Public Lecture

“Representations of Attachment in Severe Personality Disorder”

to be given by

Professor Peter Fonagy

Professor Fonagy is the Freud Memorial Professor of
Psychoanalysis, University College of London, Director of
Research Anna Freud Centre, Co-ordinating Director, Child and
Family Centre and Centre for Outcomes Research and
Effectiveness, Meninger Foundation.

Venue: Seymour Centre, cnr. Cleveland Street and City Road, Chippendale.
Date: Tuesday, 28th August 2001 at 7.30pm
Fee: \$60.00 (includes GST)
Enquiries: RANZCP NSW Branch, Tel 02 9810 7963 Fax 02 9810 5073
email: ranzcp5@magna.com.au

RANZCP MOPS participants can claim points for this educational activity

Prof. Peter Fonagy Public Lecture on 28th August 2001

To register, please return this form to RANZCP, PO Box 280, Rozelle 2039 with cheque/money order for \$60.00 payable to RANZCP Section of Psychotherapy. A Tax Invoice/Receipt will be sent to you.

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• Point of view from WA

COMING TOGETHER: Developing Of Self-Regulation

Yap Lai Meng and Geetha Mendis

Victor Evatt (Editor) suggested that the process of putting the conference together would make "a lovely point of view piece. We think "lovely" somehow does not encapsulate our struggles, disappointments, hilarious moments (when we forgot whether we made our contract with our speakers in Aus or US dollars), pleasure and frustration.

Being the youngest Branch (WA) with only a few active members, the task of organising the conference had to be carried out by a very small core group. This dictated that we needed to keep our first AAIMHI Conference simple. Rather than have a forum with a wide range of presenters, we opted for an all star cast. We were fortunate in that Mary Sue Moore, Alicia Lieberman and Dilys Daws and Peter Fonagy accepted our invitation. Many e-mails, faxes and phone calls ensued resulting in what we believe is a stimulating program that will offer something for everyone.

The theme of the Conference is The Development of Self-Regulation. The speakers will be addressing issues of early intervention, the unfolding of self-regulation, psychotherapy, counter transference, infant sleep disturbances, and the impact of experience on the developing brain.

Professor Fonagy holds a number of important positions, such as the Freud Memorial Professor of Psychoanalysis and Director of the Sub-Department of Clinical Health Psychology at the University College of London and Director of Research at the Anna Freud Centre. His clinical interests centre on issues of borderline psychopathology, violence and early attachment relationship.

Dr Mary Sue Moore joined Dr John Bowlby and colleagues at the Tavistock clinic in 1986 to investigate early disturbance in parent-infant attachment and the occurrence of psychosomatic illness in children and adults. More recently, she co-founded the Boulder Institute for Psychotherapy and Research in 1999. Her book *Reflections of Self: The impact of Trauma in Children's Drawings* will be published in 2001.

Dr Dilys Daws is the founding chair of the Association for Infant Mental Health (UK) and she is the author of "Through the night. Helping Parents and Sleepless Infants." She is currently a psychotherapist at The Tavistock Institute.

Professor Lieberman is Professor of Psychology, at the University of California, San Francisco. She is the Director of Child Trauma Research Project and Senior Psychologist, Infant-Parent Program at the San Francisco General Hospital. She is the author of *The Emotional Life of the Toddler* and numerous articles on attachment and infant-parent psychotherapy.

Many people have contacted the organizers to include extras such as supervision, special consultations, etc. In fairness to our guests we have avoided overloading them so they could enjoy their time in Perth and leave with the impression that will make them return to Australia in the future. This required a certain amount of gate keeping that was difficult for us and disappointing for others.

One of our anxieties was our shortage of funds, when our approach to various sponsors fell through. However, AAIMHI (SA) generously gave us a loan and through the efforts of Julie Stone, Professor George Lipton from the Mental Health Division gave us a sponsorship. We had hoped that our registration fees could be lower so that people in the primary care areas (like child care and refuge workers) could afford to come. We are still hoping that if we have sufficient numbers (over 170) we may be able to sponsor some places.

Many people provided us with practical advice and support. Elizabeth Puddy's encouragement and practical assistance has helped us tremendously. The Branch President Dr Caroline Zanetti and the organising committee: Yap Lai Meng, Susan Brill, Geetha Mendis, Robin Jones, Patrick Marwick, Kathy Dore, Carmel Cairney, Julie Stone were able to work through the many differences of opinion that had to be grappled with in order to arrive at a conference which has taken a departure from the usual format. Finally, there needs to be a linchpin that holds it all together and that has been Bridget Boulwood's task. We hope that our efforts will have gone towards making the conference an inspiring, valuable and memorable experience for all that attend.

See you in August!

Yap Lai Meng and Geetha Mendis



AAIMH NETWORK NEWS

SOUTH AUSTRALIA NETWORK NEWS

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Pam Linke
Treasurer: Elizabeth Puddy
Secretary: Anita MacPherson
Committee Members: Donnie Martin, Jenny Platten, Karen Fitzgerald, Terry Donald, Kim Tomlian, Ros Powrie

From Pam Linke.

The SA branch is supporting The Family Therapy Association in presenting an Oration by Mary Macleod who is The Chief Executive of the UK National Family and Parenting Institute, on 6 August. She will be speaking on Politics and Parenting.

We are also planning, in conjunction with other early childhood organisations, a political meeting to which we will invite representatives of the different political parties to talk about their policies on early childhood. Elizabeth and Pam met with Dr Margaret Tobin, the new Director of Mental Health.

For those people who are interested in Lynne Murray's book, The Social Baby, but don't know where to get it, it is available on the Internet from Amazon UK at www.amazon.co.uk for about \$40.

NSW NETWORK NEWS

NSW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Mary Morgan
Vice President: Kerry Lockhart
Treasurer: Marianne Nicholson
Membership Co-ordinator: Patricia Glossop
Secretary: Victor Evatt
Committee: Elke Andress, Leanne Clarke, Ruth Craven, Judith Edwards, Sharon Laing, Isla Lonie, David Lonie, Beth Macgregor, Beulah Warren

From: Mary Morgan

Hi to all!

Welcome to any new members.

We are looking forward to the National Meeting in Perth - the program is sounding great! Recently we had an extremely successful Sleep Symposium afternoon. This attracted record numbers of workers from health and related fields. In fact a second symposium will happen on Friday August 17th.

Dr. Louise Newman recently spoke at a seminar evening. Her topic Attachment and Early Trauma provided very relevant material for our work in the infant mental health field. Keep up the good work.

Regards,

Mary Morgan
President

Karitane National Conference

Theme: Attachment Matters.

13 & 14 September 2001, The Rex Hotel, Potts Point, Sydney. Keynote Speakers: Dr Pat Crittenden and Professor Cheryl Beck, USA. Workshops and Papers. For further information and registration brochure please contact:

The Conference Organiser, PO Box 214,
Brunswick East 3057, Australia
Tel: +61 (03) 9380 1429 Fax: +61 (03) 9380 2722
Email: conorg@ozemail.com.au

5th National Parenting Conference

"It is in the shelter of each other that the people live" - Irish proverb

International Keynote Speaker:

Norman Glass, Director-designate, National Centre for Social Research, UK. In 1997/8 he chaired the Review of Services for Young Children which led to the Sure Start Program under the Blair Government. In 1999/2000, he led the review for Sure Start and Services for Under-5s and the review of Services for Young People at Risk. He is currently chairman of the EU's Economic Policy Committee

The conference will address the many ways society shelters, nurtures and builds the resilience of families, children and adolescents.

The invited speakers will present a range of papers and projects that focus on this theme.

Registration & Information

Contact Constance Jenkin
Email: parents@jss.org.au
Tel: (03) 9415 7186;
Fax: (03) 9416 5357

Thursday 22 & Friday 23 November 2001

The University of Melbourne, Copland Theatre
Parkville, Melbourne Victoria

SYDNEY INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

ABN 63 000 096 837

<http://www.sydney.psychoanalysis.asn.au>

2001 PROGRAMME OF PUBLIC LECTURES

In this series of lectures we want to examine different aspects of early development - with a particular focus on how understanding infantile states may or may not inform and facilitate our clinical work.

The meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the Johnson Room at the Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest

Fees are: **\$330.00** in advance for Terms 1.2 & 3 (incl. GST) or **\$132.00** per term (incl. GST)
The programme is "Category A" MOPS Accredited.

If you wish to apply for a place in this year's / this term's lectures, complete the form below and mail it together with your cheque to :
The Treasurer, Sydney Institute for Psycho-Analysis
5 Penshurst Street, Willoughby, NSW 2068

We are hoping that this multi-focused view will raise some questions that are pertinent to our clinical thinking, and to the broader issues about the needs of children and parents in our society.

Speakers include psychoanalysts, child psychotherapists and researchers. **Please, see Page 12**

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SYDNEY INSTITUTE FOR PSYCHO-ANALYSIS

2001 PROGRAMME

TERM 3 ON INTUITION

A term consisting in large part of papers given at the Australian Psychoanalytical Society Conference at Uluru in August 2000. The term focuses on the intuition of the Analyst in the psychoanalytical process as well as on intuition in the service of psychoanalytic thinking within the Australian milieu.

August 21st *Title to be advised*
Lecturer: Dr. Shahid Najeeb

August 28th "A Frozen Identity : the Analysis of a 6 year old with an Autistic Presentation".
Lecturer: Mrs. Frances Thomson-Salo

September 4th "The Discovery of Time and Place". Psychoanalysis is a means of recognising the other and to answer the question: is this a place that is part of ourselves or a place that is other from us.
Lecturer: Dr. Jim Telfer

September 11th "William Hazlitt and Intuition : On Living to One's Self".
Lecturer: Mr. Maurice Whelan

TERM 4

There will be no programme of lectures offered in Term 4, 2001.

A Saturday Conference with the theme Psychoanalysis & Culture is planned for this part of the year. Details to be announced.

The Conference is in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Sydney Institute for Psycho-Analysis.

When and Where

The meetings will take place on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 p.m. in the Johnson Room at the Crows Nest Centre, 2 Ernest Place, Crows Nest NSW

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All interested in attending are warmly invited to join in a dialogue and exchange of ideas in celebration of this landmark for the Sydney Institute.

I am interested in attending the programme of Public Lectures for Terms 2 & 3 / Term 1, 2001 (please circle) and enclose a cheque payable to the Sydney Institute for Psycho-Analysis for \$330.00 (incl. GST) / \$132.00 (incl. GST). A tax invoice/receipt will be issued.

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr
Address:.....Postcode.....
Phone: (W) (H).....
Professional Qualifications:
Place of Work: (proof of full time student status will be required)
E-mail address: (please print very clearly)