THIS issue of the journal presents articles on a range of topics that are of interest to guidance officers, school counsellors, and school psychologists who work in different educational settings with children and young people with diverse learning and/or adjustment needs. The articles have been selected for publication on the basis of their academic scholarship and/or practical relevance to our readership. All papers submitted to the journal are subject to blind review by at least two reviewers who provide me with feedback on their suitability for publication. In this issue, the papers cover a range of topics including developing a career inventory to assess career maturity in young adolescents; assessing adolescent coping behaviours and strategies; understanding depression, stress, and anxiety in parents and adolescents; and using different therapeutic counselling techniques to promote positive attitudes and general wellness in children and youth.

The first paper by Creed and Patton describes the development and validation of a short form of the Australian version of the Career Development Inventory which is designed to assess career maturity in adolescents. Many guidance personnel are involved in providing career advice and counselling to young people, and the availability of a readily administered 33-item tool to assist with this process will be very appealing.

The second paper by Cunningham, Werner and Firth examines the interplay between school-, teacher- and peer-connectedness, and mastery, coping self-efficacy and coping behaviours in a sample of junior high school students. The authors found that adolescents who were more connected to their peers, teachers and school expressed more control over their thoughts, feelings and behaviours, and, in turn, reported using more productive coping strategies than their peers who were less connected.

Bitsika and Sharpley report on the incidents of stress, anxiety and depression among parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and the types of support required to help alleviate their often high levels of anxiety and depression. Cosgrove and colleagues report on a sample of adolescents referred to a public mental health service with respect to their psychiatric diagnoses, depressive symptoms, patterns of substance use and levels of suicidality. High levels of depressive symptoms were associated with suicidality, illicit substance abuse, and the likelihood of having a psychiatric diagnosis. The authors argue that the detection and treatment of these conditions at an early stage in a low-stigma environment such as a school is important for the long-term mental health and wellbeing of at-risk young people.

Given the changes to patterns of youth communication that have emerged in recent years with unlimited access to the Internet, Pelling presents an overview of some areas of concern as well as the possible benefits of access to the Internet. The information provided should be able to assist school counsellors and psychologists in helping to support positive youth Internet use while avoiding negative aspects of Internet involvement.

Barletta and Vecchione discuss the growth in professional counsellor training over the last decade and present a model of counsellor training that is intended to provide an exemplar to aid in the organisation and management of the processes of selection, induction, training, supervision and evaluation. They argue that counsellors need to be trained in a professionally appropriate manner and the model presented ensures that all aspects of a comprehensive training program are systematically addressed.

Bullying is a stressful life event for adolescents at school and it was the fourth most common reason for calls to Kids Help Line in 2002. Martin and Gillies investigated how young adolescents cope with bullying and, in particular, some strategies that they use to deal with it. The following papers by Goss and Campbell and Tunnecliff and O'Brien highlight the value that can be derived from using sandplay as a therapeutic tool with children and adolescents in diverse school settings. Finally, the paper by Goldman and Bradley discusses the important role parents play in educating their children about their sexuality.

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