

CONTENTS

Office holders and executive	2
President's Report	3
Program development	5
Grief Awareness Week 2007	7
Membership Services/ Chapters	8
Financial Statement	10

PATRON, OFFICE HOLDERS AND THE EXECUTIVE 2007-08

- Mrs Lynne Landy (Patron)

Committee of Management

- Tim Adam (President)
- Paul Tricker (Vice-President & Treasurer)
- Megan Moorhouse
- Alan Nightingale
- Ros Winkler
- Marge O'Donnell (until December 2007)
- Catherine Cini

Life Members

- Des Tobin
- Archdeacon Frank Lowe
- Jean Cheshire OAM
- Irene Renzenbrink
- Meg Renfrey
- The Rev'd Bob Ower
- Professor Terry Seedsman

Chapter Convenors

- Brenda Rutherford (Grampians)
- Anne Watt (Hume region, Shepparton)

Public Officer

- Tim Adam (President)

Sub-Committees

Assessment and Accreditation Board

- Alan Nightingale (Convenor)
- Annie Cantwell-Bartl
- Bruce Rumbold
- Marge O'Donnell (to December 07)

Education and Research

- Marge O'Donnell (Convenor - to Dec 07)
- Joan Roberts
- Jon Stebbins
- Geraldine Paine
- Bette Phillips

Ethics

- Ros Winkler

Finance and Management

- Tim Adam
- Paul Tricker

Staff

- John Edwards
(Executive Officer)
- Catherine Prescott
(Information & Membership Services Officer)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2008

Thank you for your continued support over the past 12 months. I am pleased to announce that our office is now regularly staffed and continues to be available for membership support. However I extend my apology to anyone who has experienced any inconvenience resulting from the reduced staffing and office hours. I am aware that NALAG's reduced capacity has created considerable frustration for the Committee, the staff and the membership. Thank you all for your patience and goodwill.

As you would be aware NALAG has not received any Government funding for the past year and has been relying on its membership fees and seminar income to operate. Nonetheless NALAG has continued to deliver services within its reduced capacity.

Seminar successes

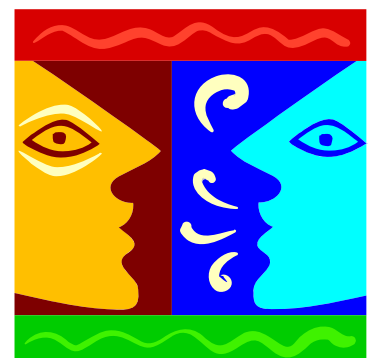
I am pleased to report that there has been successful seminars on 'Adolescents and Grief' and 'Loss and Grief Related to Substance Misuse'. Grief Awareness Week with its theme of 'Resilience, Connection, Creativity: Strengthening the Loss and Grief Capacity of the Health and Community Services Sectors was an outstanding success.

To a large extent the year has been about planning and seeking opportunities to

further NALAG's work. Those of you who are long standing members will know that NALAG has evolved and adapted over time to respond to loss and grief needs in the community and changing circumstances of the organisation.

A role review

Once again NALAG is poised to take on the challenge of change. With the support of the membership,



NALAG has reviewed and is in the process of developing its role as a professional and representative organisation for the full spectrum of the loss and grief sector.

NALAG is now in a position to promote accreditation and improved service standards throughout Australia. NALAG will also continue its work to improve the availability of opportunities for specialist loss and grief training and practice.

Project work

To support NALAG's new directions, the Committee and staff have been actively pursuing service and funding opportunities. This effort has delivered some success and I am pleased to

confirm that in the 2008-2009 year NALAG is undertaking loss and grief project work from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The project work is to develop loss and grief material to support the work of carers, volunteers and practitioners / clinicians. In addition NALAG is undertaking some preliminary analysis relating to suicide postvention.

This project work provides NALAG with an opportunity to further develop its capacity and work. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Department of Health and Ageing for recognising the community's needs in the area of loss and grief and supporting the work of NALAG.

The year ahead

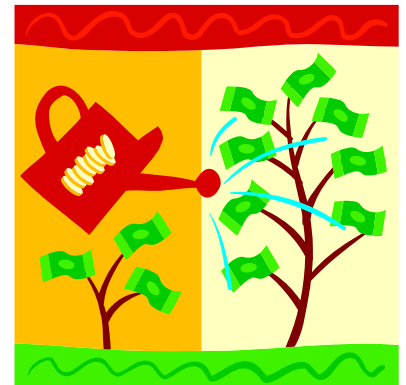
The next 12 months will be exciting and will see completion of the Department of Health and Ageing projects as well as the other work that the Association has identified. This includes expanding the accreditation program, grief awareness week forum, seeking further paid project work and the continuation of the popular seminar series.

As NALAG approaches its 32nd anniversary it can reflect with a sense of achievement that it has made a significant contribution to the standing and service capacity of the loss and grief

service sector. As new challenges and opportunities emerge NALAG remains committed to ensuring that good quality support is available for people who are grieving.

It has been a testing 12 months for the organisation. During this time, I have been struck by the commitment and dedication to the

Association (and to the loss and grief sector) of my colleagues on the Committee of Management and importantly



I acknowledge the support provided by the members of our Association. This year I must extend a very special thank you to NALAG's staff for their excellent work throughout an uncertain and most challenging year.

In the coming year I look forward to your continued involvement with NALAG and together improving the level of support available to people who are grieving. ■

Tim Adam

NALAG'S WORK

NALAG's work is focussed on strengthening the community's capacity to effectively respond to its loss and grief needs. NALAG undertakes its work through three program areas.

- Community and Service System Development
- Community Education
- Membership and Accreditation Services

1. Community and Service System Development

The community and service system development program incorporates a range of activities that maintain and facilitate the development of appropriate responses to grief and bereavement in the community including

- Partnerships and collaborations with Government and community organisations to address loss, grief and bereavement issues
- Undertaking projects that inform the loss, grief and bereavement service system in relation to community need, public policy and service provision
- Supporting community networks and agencies (including NALAG Chapters) that are concerned about and respond to loss, grief and bereavement needs in the community

The community and service system development program undertakes activities to strengthen the community's capacity to respond to loss and grief issues and needs. The program has a particular focus on improving the availability and access to loss and grief services.

A central element of this program is the development and support of local and regional loss and grief service networks. This is achieved by providing practical support including the provision of resources, information and connection to the wider loss and grief sector.

NALAG also provides advice and consultation in relation to service development and support for local projects.

The program also undertakes projects to identify service needs and effective pathways to accessing the available services. In addition NALAG's regional Chapters meet regularly and undertake a variety of local activities.

This year NALAG has been involved in developing proposals to develop loss and grief information for carers, volunteers and practitioners including health and community agencies who support people with loss and grief issues. NALAG has also been an active participant in the national review of the self regulation of psychotherapy and counselling.

2. Community Education

The community education program strengthens the community's capacity to respond to grief and bereavement issues and service requirements by providing information and raising awareness of grief and bereavement issues and services.

The program is a low cost service that is targeted at members of the public, community organisations, community groups, government departments, Local Government and the health sector - including community health services.



The Community Education Program was scaled down in 2007-08, however some sessions were provided. NALAG provided a full-day professional development session to CanTeen. A number of sessions were held for Costa House (Aged Care) in Lara. Fifteen staff, 12 carers/residents and 75 volunteers attended the sessions.

Two important elements of NALAG'S community Education Program are the 2007-08 Seminar series and Grief Awareness Week.

Seminar Series 2007-08

Because of financial/staffing constraints, in the 2007-08 year the NALAG Seminar Series was scaled down.

Two seminars were held, one in July 07 on 'Adolescents and Grief' and one in April 2008 on 'Addressing Loss and Grief with People who Misuse Substances'.

The Adolescent seminar was presented by Meg Moorhouse and was attended by school counsellors, youth workers, social workers, loss and grief practitioners, pastoral care workers, and provided the opportunity to hear first hand a range of approaches to working with young people.

The April seminar on Grief and Substance Abuse was presented by Ros Winkler and examined the worker's perspective and practice issues (self awareness, own losses, anxiety, confidence, fear, sadness, empathy, curiosity, humour, assumptions, sitting with emotion, supervision).

Both seminars were well attended, (37 in September and 45 in April). ■

GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK 2007

Grief Awareness Week aims to raise community awareness of the impact of loss and grief and how it affects individuals, families and communities and strengthen the community's ability to respond to loss and grief.

In 2007 the theme for Grief Awareness Week was Resilience, Connection, Creativity: Strengthening the Loss and Grief Capacity of the Health and Community Services Sector.

The annual Grief Awareness Week Forum afforded the opportunity to address loss as a significant issue in the Health and Community Services sectors, including aged care, community health services, youth and adult corrections, child, youth and family services etc.

Featured speakers

Keynotes presentations were given by Beth Wilson, Victoria's Health Services Commissioner and Dr Jon Stebbins who reported the findings of his recent report 'Beyond the death of a child – Social impacts and economic costs of the death of a child'. Concurrent sessions exploring a wide range of topics included:

- Creative Therapies and Resilience, (Art Therapy and Music Therapy).
- Resilience Following Trauma.
- Children and Resilience.

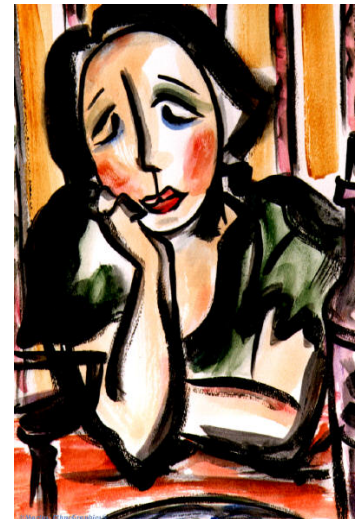
- Adolescent Grief and Groupwork.
- Bereaved fathers.

There were also presentations by VACRO (Victorian Association for the Care and Rehabilitation of Offenders) and 'Good Grief' Support Group at the Alfred.

Award Winners

In 2007 Grief Awareness Week Awards were awarded to:

- Griefline** in recognition of 25 years of service to the Victorian Community.
- Compassionate Friends** in recognition of Jon Stebbins/Trevor Batrouney for 'Death of a Child' Social impacts and economic costs of the death of a child. ■



3. Membership and Accreditation Services

The membership and accreditation program strengthens the capacity of the community to effectively and appropriately respond to loss, grief and bereavement by:

- Developing and supporting organisations, community groups, practitioners and individuals who have a special interest in grief and bereavement
- Maintaining and developing the loss and grief practitioner and organisation accreditation program
- Maintaining and developing loss and grief training and education recognition program
- Providing information and support for NALAG's accredited practitioners

During the year extensive work has been undertaken in relation to improving and expanding the accreditation program. Among other developments a professional membership was introduced and a NALAG based professional indemnity insurance scheme was established.

Membership Services

The Membership Program is a core activity of NALAG that informs and supports the loss and grief work and aspirations of its individual and organisation members. The general membership program engages a wide variety of individuals and organisations with a special interest in loss, grief and bereavement.

NALAG supports its members with information, newsletters and opportunities to participate in the loss and grief sector including forums and seminars.

NALAG draws on the knowledge, skills and experience of its membership through consultations, regional groups (Chapters), specialist committees and participation in NALAG meetings and activities.

Agenda setting

The membership plays an important role in determining NALAG's activities and establishing NALAG's priorities. NALAG members receive discounts on NALAG seminars, forums and workshops. Staff are always available to discuss any issue members may have.

Membership status

NALAG had 214 financial members in the 2007–08 year. Of these, 142 members were also accredited counsellors or educators (66%) and 22 memberships were organisations (10%).

Accreditation

The Practitioner Accreditation Program plays an important role in establishing and maintaining appropriate professional education, training and practice standards for loss and grief counsellors and educators. Accredited practitioners are also full

members of NALAG. In addition to the benefits of being a member of NALAG, practitioners have access to NALAG's professional information and support service.



Importantly members support the work of NALAG and contribute to the development of improved loss and grief information and services in Victoria.



CHAPTERS

2007–08

Chapters provide NALAG members with an opportunity to strengthen their local / regional community's capacity to respond to loss and grief needs and issues by providing a local forum and network to exchange information and raise issues, a structure to undertake initiatives and provide mutual support among members, acting as a clearing house for communication and information and providing a local connection with the wider loss and grief sector.

The role of a Chapter is to:

- provide information on loss and grief matters to the local community.
- promote and undertake (where feasible) community education and awareness raising activities.
- utilise (where feasible) local opportunities to promote the role and purpose of NALAG.
- provide a local link, network and opportunities for mutual support for NALAG members, and other groups and services involved in loss and grief matters.
- advocate and lobby for the provision of appropriate loss and grief supports for the community.

In 2007 the Ballarat and Shepparton Chapters of NALAG provided community education and events related to loss and grief.