



“The Victim is our Priority”

Patron:
His Excellency
The Honourable Hieu Van Le AC
Governor of South Australia



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – March 2021

Happy New Year to you all and I hope 2021 is going to be a better year for us all. We are all working from home and once a week I go to the office to work from there, to make sure everything is running well. At the end of last year, the Board met on 17th December to have our end of year get-together at La Scala. It was a particularly good turnout. On behalf of ADSSA, I presented all the Board members and volunteers with a Certificate of Appreciation, for a job well done under difficult times through Covid-19. We are grateful to our hardworking Board members and volunteers because without them, ADSSA would not be as successful and relevant as it is.

Life Membership Awards were also presented by Steve Georganas MP to our three long serving members of ADSSA, namely Penny Jacomos, John Carter and Adrian Meegan. We acknowledge their incredible commitment and continued support since 2005 when ADSSA began. We have started the tradition of presenting engraved glass plaques for our Life Members, as we feel that acknowledging this achievement is an important part of an association's appreciation of their committee members.



This year is continuing to be a better year, as we continue to Educate and Train many VET D2C students in Asbestos Awareness and Silicosis Awareness throughout the State Secondary Schools and Colleges. We are also preparing a third program dealing with, 'Dangerous Chemicals in the Building Industry'. Tina Photakis, our secretary, and I met with Deputy Lord Mayor Mary Couros on 19 January to discuss Asbestos Awareness in the CBD and the wider community. Mary was incredibly understanding and is very much interested in supporting ADSSA.

It was sad to note that three of our male Mesothelioma victims passed away during the Festive Season. We attended their funerals where possible and we wish their families well and remind them that we will continue to support them where we can, in the future.

I would like to personally thank everyone who supports ADSSA and hope that the support continues this year especially from RTWSA, CITB, SafeWorkSA, our Patron and Ambassadors and the Port Adelaide/Enfield City Council.

Once again, let us hope 2021 is going to be a better year than 2020.
Many thanks

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From the Social Worker

As I sit here on my lap-top at home, looking out onto a sunny day with just a gentle breeze, for a change! I feel a little short-changed, having what I think has been a mild, windy summer. I have also felt short-changed about not having my beloved tennis to watch over the summer, but the delay of tennis, has now meant that I can watch tennis almost until the end of summer! One always has to look for the silver lining!

On Thursday December 17th, on the evening I commenced my annual leave, I was presented with a Life Membership Award at ADSSA by Steve Georganas (the Federal Member for the seat of Adelaide), at our Xmas get together. It was unexpected and greatly appreciated after 15.5 years at ADSSA. It is a beautiful, inscribed glass piece, and my only problem is how to keep it away from the prying little fingers of grandchildren!

During my break, 3 of my male clients died with mesothelioma, their ages being, 75, 77 and 81 years. I knew one of these men and his family very well and attended his funeral on 14th January with our President. I am sorry I didn't ever get to visit Thomas and his wife Maria, at their house on the Greek island of Rhodes, when my husband I were there in 2017. Unfortunately, Thomas couldn't make his annual trip to Rhodes in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the family have a treasure-chest of memories, as well as the powerful, final words Thomas shared with his family, on what was to be his last Christmas. One of the grandsons spoke of this at the funeral - touching and moving. I saw Thomas 23 days before he died, and as he and his wife walked me out of the front of his house (as he always did) we both knew we didn't have to say anything to one another, and we both knew we probably wouldn't be seeing one another again. There was a tacit understanding. It had all been said before... over the past 5 years and 2 months. Which brings me to reflect on the Social worker- client relationship in my practice in a small NFP organisation like ADSSA, where clients are voluntary. This may be different in other settings.

'Social worker- client relationship has always been central to social work purpose and identity. The social worker-client relationship is the vehicle in which empathy is conveyed, care is provided, experiences are shared, belonging is created and meaning-making occurs. (Howe 2013). Trust, empathy, reliability, genuineness, and transparency are confirmed as essential qualities in social worker- client relationships for achieving change (De Boer and Coady, 2007; Reimer, 2010). Although these are established, how relationships are conducted by social workers is less clear, however, the social worker role has been described as the "practitioner's ability to hold together the cognitive, emotional and practical aspects of a client's life to provide a sense of security and therefore reduce anxiety" (Schofield, 1998, p.113). Overall, social work practice requires capacity for a particular "use of self" (Leichty, 2018; Trevithick, 2018). The uniqueness of each relationship demands a sustained focus on intervention purposes and goals. While progressing stated intervention goals is paramount, the relationship I have with my clients is the most important aspect of my work. It is essential to 'sit with' the client, 'be with' the client, as they tell their story, and throughout the intervention. Building a relationship requires social workers to be empathic and respectful as well as attuned to the challenges that 'being in' relationships can present for a client. The work entails enabling clients to feel encouraged, motivated and hopeful about engaging with them as a professional "in the system".

One is required to integrate relational, emotional and practice knowledge including critical reflection, empathic relating, well developed use of self in practice, emotional intelligence, patience, perseverance and considerable emotional energy that enables retaining engagement with the client through "THICK and THIN".' (From an article in The Journal of the Australian Association of Social Workers, Volume 73 Number, 4 October 2020, 'Social Worker- Client Relationships: Social Worker Perspectives' by Wendy Rollins). My COVID-19 coping motto for 2021 is, "Dig in, be content with your patch, and create your own little micro-climate with your loved ones".

Please feel free to call me anytime on my mobile 0412701630 or email pjacomos@hotmail.com

Penny Jacomos

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ADSSA is proudly supported by:



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