



LORNE CONFERENCE 1976

“All Care and No Responsibility” — Not only the theme for this year’s Victorian Child Care Conference, but also the motto of a beleaguered Conference Committee.

Some twelve months ago, negotiations commenced to sponsor the visit of Professor David Fanshel of Columbia University. Detailed arrangements were made and the plans were received with widespread interest in the child care field.

In a flood of registrations, unprecedented in previous conferences, the enrolment swelled from an anticipated 140 to a total in excess of 220 (and still 100 on the Waiting List!).

Then it happened! — three weeks to go and Mrs. Fanshel is taken seriously ill. The visit is off and the Conference in doubt. “All Care and No Responsibility”.

Quickly follows a succession of rewarding events. Adam Jamrozik, head of Social Work at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education returns to Australia after six months study at the Universities of Michigan and Warsaw. “Yes, I do have time, Yes I’d be delighted.”

John McLaren, lecturer in Special Education at the Darling Downs in Queensland, emerges in Melbourne as head of Humanities at Footscray Institute of Technology.

“Well, I usually go to the Footy on Saturday, but as long as I can watch the replay”.

Marie Coleman is appointed Director of the Office of Child Care and would welcome the opportunity to discuss its role in the context of the Conference.

These together, with the initial enlistment of Terry Carney from the Monash Law School presented a formidable and exciting team.

In these opening paragraphs it would be presumptive of a Convener to attempt any analysis as to the worthwhileness of the Conference — who can assess the after hours discussions, putting faces to voices only ever heard on telephone, the sharing of new ideas⁶

However, the transcripts of the various conference papers included in this report bear adequate testimony to the calibre of the speakers.

Any success attributed to the conference must be divided two hundred and thirty-seven ways:

- * One enthusiastic, friendly and competent Chairwoman — Mrs. Joan Child (Former member for Henty)
- * Four excellent speakers
- * Ten tireless committee members
- * The vibrant participation of two hundred and twenty one conference delegates

But I would feel remiss if I did not pay thanks to Dr. David Fanshel for if he was the key to obtaining the breadth of representation from all areas of children’s welfare both in Victoria and interstate — he has rendered a most valuable service to the children of this state.

May we continue to talk and share and co-operate and promote the dialogue which we commenced at Lorne!

Vernon Knight,
Convener.

Editors note:

The papers in this supplement are reprinted in the order in which they were delivered at the Conference.