President's Notes

During my recent stay in hospital, to go with my cup of tea I was given a sugar sachet with the following pithy saying typed on the back:

"Achievement"
"The man who rows the boat generally does not have time to rock it."

This set up a train of thought which went something like this: 'Is the man who rows the boat the leader? If so, should the leader in fact "rock the boat". If not, how does change come about?'

Embracing on a set path, with a set goal, may not take into consideration variations which occur along the way and which may lead to an alteration of direction. We need to be open and adaptable in our "vision" of our future direction and rocking the boat may reduce complacency. However, as the man rowing the boat actually has his back towards the direction in which he is heading, perhaps he is not the "leader" but the worker. If so, he still needs to rock the boat in order bring to attention the need to change.

The midwife is a person at the interface of activity between the child bearing family and professional services - she is the one who responds to and initiates change.

But if you take this analogy further, the man rowing the boat needs to work both arms in unison. If this does not happen, the boat goes in circles. This leads me to accept that midwifery, as the "boat" in question, needs to have participative decision making between the leaders and the workers within the profession about the direction in which we wish to go. No-one can go alone. The message, then, is join your professional colleagues in planning our future - the future which will have such impact on the lives of the child bearing families in our care.

Cynthia Turnbull
President - Australian College of Midwives Inc.

Building Bridges

The ACMI was asked to participate in the development of a questionnaire aimed at eliciting what is happening in the workplace between obstetricians and midwives.

The results of this questionnaire will form the basis for a continuing education program for obstetricians, with emphasis being placed on areas of greatest need.

This is a unique opportunity to build bridges between the Australian College of Midwives and the R.A.C.O.& G., and to actively participate in overcoming any perceived problems between the two professions.

I would strongly urge all those midwives who are randomly selected to participate in this survey to return your completed questionnaires as soon as possible.

We will have access to the final results, but these can only be worthwhile if we, as midwives, fulfill our part by returning the questionnaire.

If you do not wish your name made available to outside organisations for purposes other than ACMI correspondence, please write to:
ACMI Secretariat
Science Centre Foundation
35-43 Clarence St,
Sydney NSW 2000

Thank you all in advance for your participation.
Cynthia Turnbull
President ACMI

 Standards of Practice

A document entitled: "Standards for the Practice of Midwifery" has been compiled by the Australian College of Midwives, and is now available.

For your copy write to:
Science Centre Foundation
35-43 Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Single copy: $5.00 postage paid
20 copies $50.00 postage paid