

## Status report on recent research projects conducted by Dr Angela Martin

### Managers' attitudes toward depressed employees

A survey of managers was undertaken in 2007. 235 respondents provided data. A journal article on the subject is currently under review for publication in an academic journal and comments about the results of the research were also included in an article published in *The Age* newspaper in 2007.

Results of the survey were presented in the following conference paper:

Martin, A. J. 2008. Individual and contextual correlates of managers' attitudes toward depressed employees. *5th World Conference on The Promotion of Mental Health and The Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders*. September, Melbourne, Australia.

Key findings are described in the following report available on my web page: *Summary of results from the study of managers' attitudes toward depressed employees*.

### Mental health promotion in Australian Organizations

135 telephone interviews with managers of a wide range of businesses and organizations were completed in 2008.

The interviews identified some of the current practices of Australian organizations in the area of mental health promotion and looked at some of the facilitating and deterrent factors in initiating activities or setting up a formal programme. As the data set is extensive, further analyses are still being undertaken for the purposes of an academic article.

One of the major findings was that managers in smaller businesses have less knowledge, support and resources for promoting mental health in their organisations. As a result of this information colleagues and I are currently developing the "Business in Mind" programme, which will consist of a DVD and supporting materials focussed on mental health promotion in the small-medium business sector. This programme will be made available for SME managers to trial in 2010 (project funded by the Australian Research Council, Beyond Blue and Workcover TAS and supported by the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

Comments about the issues of promoting mental health in entrepreneurs and executives have also been included in articles for *Business Review Weekly* and *Boss* magazine in 2008 and 2009.

### Service climate at UTAS

An online staff and student survey was implemented in 2007. Responses were obtained from 389 staff and 1458 students. An academic article is currently being finalised documenting these results. A report was provided to the Director of Human Resources and the Pro Vice Chancellor for Teaching and Learning including recommendations for implementing a mental health promotion program at the University. The report is available from my web page: *2007 UTAS Service climate and stakeholder wellbeing survey*.

Thank you if you have participated in any of the above studies - please email me if you have any enquires about the above research projects: [angela.martin@utas.edu.au](mailto:angela.martin@utas.edu.au)