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Obituary

Frank Ainsworth

1937 - 2024

Leon Fulcher

Join me in remembering Frank Ainsworth, whom I met in the early 1970s at a conference in Aberdeen. Frank became one of the first university-based advocate of residential child care and residential social work in Scotland following his appointment as a Lecturer in Residential Child Care and Social Work at the University of Dundee. Entry to university teaching followed a professional journey through adult corrections where Frank was closely engaged in Borstal training and the development of community group homes for young offenders. After Dundee, Frank was appointed to the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work (CCETSW) as UK advisor on residential care practice as part of social work. In this role Frank advanced the transition of specialist courses in residential care into mainstream social work education.

In 2021, the *Scottish Journal of Residential Child Care* published a personal summary of policy and practice themes around which Frank worked as a UK and International Social Work Educator (Frank Ainsworth (2021) A Personal Reflection: In for the long haul <https://pureportal.strath.ac.uk/en/publications/a-personal-reflection-in-for-the-long-haul>).

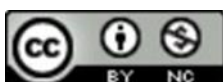
As a critical thinker, Frank left us with creative insights that have aided the development of residential child and youth care as a professional domain of practice. Check out a detailed summary of Frank's professional work internationally as summarised by Elizabeth Fernandez (2024) Remembering Dr Frank Ainsworth. *Children Australia*, 46(1), 3029.

http://doi.org/10.61605/cha_3029

Important Scholarly Contributions

Some of Frank Ainsworth's important contributions to the literature on residential child and youth care include:

- Conceptualisation of group care policy and practices
- Advocacy for Family Oriented Group Care where family members participate in learning to care for their young people.



Remembering Frank

Many will remember Frank as someone who spoke his mind. Frankly speaking, we all benefitted from his, at times, acerbic commentary. One of the perhaps lesser-known facts about Frank was that he once stood as a Tory candidate for Bromley Regional Council. He also completed an apprenticeship in printing through his family's stationery and printing business. In that capacity, Frank learned to read print upside down making it important for the rest of us not to leave letters or reports on a desk anywhere as Frank could from almost any angle read such material were he so inclined!

Residential child and youth care is the long-term beneficiary of Frank's unsuccessful political career, and his international career moved across the human services. Thank you partner, Pat Hansen, for helping to make Frank's later years, happy years! We already miss you, Frank. Thanks for the memories!

About the author

Leon Fulcher is a retired Professor of Social Work, author, researcher, and consultant.

