



**Ekta K. Kalra** is the Managing Director of EK MedExperts Services Pvt. Ltd. She is an orator, medical writer, poetess, philosopher, pharmacist, psychologist and researcher. She is also working as an educational agent of Cornell Institute of Business and Technology, Sydney. She has completed a Masters degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and is at present in the final year of her post-graduation in Psychotherapy and Counselling. She has been recognised for her writings in scientific and artistic fields of thought and imagination.



**Rita Kugler** is a Chartered Accountant with nearly 20 years experience in the private, public and community sectors. Early in her career Rita joined the international firm KPMG where she gained valuable experience and training in auditing, systems assessment and process improvement both in Australia and USA. Managerial roles awakened in Rita the desire to increase her skills in understanding human behaviour. To this end Rita has completed Master practitioner level in NeuroLinguistic Programming (NLP) and other personal and group development processes. Rita is passionate about self-development and the importance of values based studies/programs in understanding and shaping behaviour. She is also passionate about raising awareness about the environmental and sustainability issues faced by our planet today. Rita was born in Argentina and migrated to Australia with her parents and sister in 1977. Rita resides in Brisbane, Queensland and is one of the founding members of the Brisbane Institute of Strengths Based Practice.



**Dr Stephen Lamar** has worked for the last 14 years in both the public and private sector as a teacher, counsellor and educational consultant. He is currently working as an academic with the School of Human Services, Griffith University, Australia, where he teaches introductory counselling and psychology and works in an advisory capacity with first year students in the Bachelor of Human Services and Bachelor of Social Work degree programs. Stephen has published and presented widely, both in Australia and internationally and has in the last year centred his research focus on early intervention and prevention strategies to assist children and families at-risk of challenging behaviours. His more recent work has emphasised the significance of developing strength-based intervention frameworks that draw on children's capacities, competencies and resources. In 2005 Stephen completed a PhD in child psychology. The focus of his PhD research centred upon early intervention and prevention strategies for children and families at-risk of challenging behaviours.



**Dr. Bob Lonne, PhD**, has extensive practice, managerial and research experience of statutory child protection and welfare, and juvenile justice, particularly in rural and remote communities in Australia. He has presented widely on the benefits and limitations of the contemporary approaches to child protection adopted in many Western countries. Bob is a senior lecturer with the School of Social Work and Applied Human Sciences, University of Queensland, Brisbane Australia and is the current National President of the Australian Association of Social Workers a 6000 member professional membership organisation.



**Nira Manghrani** is a research Scholar in Human Development and Family Studies, Faculty of Home Science, M.S. University of Braoda, Vadodara, India. She has a Masters in Industrial Psychology, and a post graduate Diploma in Guidance and Counseling from Baroda. Nira worked in the area of Emotional Intelligence and Spiritual Intelligence (S.Q.) and developed assessment tools to measure Spiritual Intelligence. Her on-going work is to combine qualitative and quantitative methods for reliable assessment of spiritual intelligence. Nira is currently researching in the field of death and dying.



**SR. M. Lourthu Mary Fmm** has been involved in building people's power since 1988. She has worked as Project Director to the National Child Labour Project, and ILO-IPEC project (International Labour Organisation) - Integrated Programme on Elimination of Child Labour in Tamil Nadu. Since 2002, she has been teaching in the department of social work, Stella Maris College, Chennai. Sr Lourthu Mary is also a trainer, evaluator, consultant and counsellor. Her doctoral work is focused on "The impact of globalisation on women entrepreneurs", using qualitative methods in her study.



**Wayne McCashen** is author of the books *The Strengths Approach: A strengths-based resource for sharing power and creating change* and *Communities of hope: A strengths-based resource for building community*; and co-author of the card-based resource *Name the Frame: Reminders for building respectful socially just decisions*. Presently he is Education and Training Coordinator for Family and Community Services in the Northern Territory, Australia, and was until recently the principal trainer and consultant for St Lukes Anglicare (Bendigo, Australia) in strengths-based practice to a diverse range of organisations throughout Australia and New Zealand. He is a leader in the articulation and development of the strengths approach to working in the human services. He has written material on strengths-based ways of working with individuals, families, groups, communities and organisations that is used nationally and internationally. Wayne has 30 years experience in the human services including youth work, family work, community development, training and professional development, staff