Introduction to Behaviour Therapy and Schizophrenia (II): Conclusion to the Two-part Special-issue Series.

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This issue of Behaviour Change includes the second instalment of the two-part special-issue series on behaviour therapy and schizophrenia. There are four articles in this special issue. First, Max Birchwood discusses his program of research on early intervention in psychotic relapse. This work is a wonderful example of an applied program of research leading from careful assessment of a problem to specifically tailored interventions. The work also illustrates the potential of using psychological and pharmacological interventions in an integrated manner. In the second article, David Kavanagh describes the important association between substance abuse and schizophrenia. Often, researchers and clinicians find work with these coexisting problems too hard. In a very useful overview, David provides guidance for helping people with both these problems.

Kim Mueser, Charles Wallace, and Bob Liberman review recent developments in social-skills training. We are fortunate to have an article which is a collaboration between two eminent research teams, one from the east and one from the west coast of the United States. Together they are able to report on the most recent research, and suggest current directions in clinical application of this research. In the final article, I tried to integrate the findings reported in the earlier articles with the trends in mental health care in Australia. This article is an attempt to identify some changes in mental health service delivery, and analyse the implications for behaviour therapy.

I thank all the authors for all their hard work, and Matt Sanders as editor of Behaviour Change for his support in this lengthy project. I hope the two-part special-issue series will be of use to those who work to help the sufferers of schizophrenia and their carers.

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