

## Editorial



We have five interesting articles in the final issue for 1995, which we hope will be of value to you educators of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The first paper reports on a study conducted in a traditionally-oriented Yolngu community in North East Arnhem Land, which look at the hearing and communication development of 30 children over a two year period. The study was conducted by a speech pathologist with the assistance of Yolngu educators, who played an important role in interpreting the videotaped classroom interactions. Their results provide strategies for helping Aboriginal children with past or present hearing problems to be successful in the classroom. This is a widespread problem with a high incidence of otitis media among Indigenous people in all state territories. The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody makes reference to this condition and the Board of Studies (NSW) has produced *Otitis Media and Aboriginal Children: Handbook for Teachers and Communities* (1994).

Frawley provides an analysis of Tiwi educators' concerns regarding language maintenance and the role of Tiwi culture within the education system. He has synthesised their ideas and presented an alternative approach to Tiwi education, one that is controlled and determined by the Tiwi people.

Smith looks at issues of access and equity in the delivery of arts education to Aboriginal students. It stresses the importance of Aboriginal participation in arts education, the need to create more culturally appropriate working environments, school programs and teaching methods with an increased range of activities.

Mander-Ross reports on a project she undertook on Aboriginal school attendance patterns. She takes the view that a lot of teachers at her school do not understand the issue of attendance and feel powerless to change it. Her study looks at 20 students and she reports on the interviews she had with them, and their views about the value of school.

The fifth paper is from Mark Ionn, an Education student at Central Queensland University. He raises a number of issues including low participation rates of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders in education and training and the participation of their communities in the education of their young people. He also considers government policy and looks at stereotyping and misconceptions that are fostered about Indigenous people and offers some suggestions regarding teacher education.

The papers presented here provide readers with valuable insights and suggestions. We invite you to reflect on these themes and recommendations and invite you to share your comments and views as well as contributions drawn from your own experiences.

You will find enclosed with this issue a notice reminding you that this will be your last issue for 1995 and that from 1996, because of changes to Government funding, all subscriptions will have to be financial to offset the considerable cost of production and distribution. In order for us to make this transition as smooth as possible for everybody we would urge you to renew your subscription as soon as possible, so that we can get off to a good start in 1996.

This is the last issue of the Journal for 1995, and the final issue that Dawn Muir will be editing. Dawn is retiring from the University at the end of the year, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her long involvement with *The Aboriginal Child at School*, she has been Editor since 1983, a

for the important contribution she has made during that time to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. Dawn, we wish you a very happy and fulfilling retirement!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all subscribers, contributors and students a most enjoyable vacation and we look forward to your support in 1996.

With best wishes  
The Editors

# Notice to Subscribers



From the beginning of 1996 there will be a change in the way some subscribers receive *The Aboriginal Child at School*. Up to now, some schools have received one or two free copies of the journal, depending on the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Unfortunately, we are no longer able to do this, although for the remainder of 1995 some schools will continue to receive free copies of the journal.

**To continue receiving the journal in 1996, however, all subscribers will need to take out a financial subscription. As always we will endeavour to keep subscription costs as low as possible.**

*Thank you for your continuing support.*