

EDITORIAL

This is my last issue as Editor of the Journal. Dr. Herbert Biggs at Southern Cross University will be taking on the role for a four-year term commencing with Volume 3, Issue 2. I have appreciated Dr. Biggs' enthusiasm and dedication to the Journal as Associate Editor and believe he will take the Journal in interesting and worthwhile new directions.

The reaction of subscribers and ASORC members to the Journal has been positive. Many have commented that the Journal has reinforced a perception that the profession of rehabilitation counselling is alive and strong in Australia despite the ongoing issues of role and title confusion, encroachment on the role of rehabilitation counselling by other professional groups and the adverse impact of government policy changes in the area of rehabilitation funding. I also hope the Journal has given rehabilitation and rehabilitation counselling in Australia a more international focus through the contribution of overseas Consulting Editors and the distribution of the Journal.

The major issue facing the Journal is the lack of a strong, sustained publishing culture in the rehabilitation community in Australia. A considerable amount of research is being undertaken in Australia through organisations such as the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service but little of this is reaching 'press' in journals. One of my ideas (drawn from the Journal of Rehabilitation Administration in the United States) is to establish a mentoring scheme whereby people with a publication record assist new researchers to write and submit journal manuscripts. I hope this can still happen.

Many people have contributed to the Journal over the last three years and I would like to thank them all for their assistance. In particular I owe thanks to the Consulting Editors who have willingly given their time to review manuscripts. All Editors have been constructive and detailed in their feedback to authors and this has been appreciated. Special thanks are also due to Mike Hancock, Stephen May of Australian Academic Press, Andrea Kenafake and Maggie Magafakis.

This issue includes the two winning student manuscripts, both of which are interesting and topical. Congratulations to Heather Budd for her paper on occupational rehabilitation of seafarers and to Peter Stebbins for his paper on changes in family needs following brain injury. I would like to thank Andrew Remenyi for coordinating the Student Manuscript Competition.

I have also included a letter to the Editor, which I thought may be of interest to the readership, on the role of injured worker support groups in the Hunter region. The reader rightfully points out that such groups should be represented in any forum to consider the sorts of changes to compensation systems in Australia I discussed in my last Editorial.

Nicholas Buys

Editor