

Behaviour Change: An Editorial Statement

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As the incoming editor of *Behaviour Change*, my first privilege is to thank and acknowledge the contribution of the outgoing editor of the journal, Dr Jay Birnbrauer and his editorial board, for their excellent work during the past three years, in producing Volumes 6, 7 and 8 on behalf of the ABMA. Some first rate papers and special issues have appeared addressing a broad spectrum of clinical problems and applied issues in a variety of clinical settings. The diversity of these research and clinical applications highlights the continuing broad applicability of the behavioural approach to many problems of contemporary living. Taking over as a new editor is both a tremendous honour and exciting opportunity. It is also an awesome responsibility to foster the continuing evolution of *Behaviour Change*.

During my term as editor the basic mission of the journal will remain the same. I will be aiming to initiate a few changes in the types of articles published and some changes have been made to the presentation format of the journal. From its inception *Behaviour Change* has aimed to publish original work of a behavioural nature addressing significant clinical or applied problems in our community. Problems addressed have been as diverse as the application of behavioural assessment and treatment techniques with traditional mental health problems, (such as schizophrenia and depression), to community based applications of behavioural technology to public health issues. Some of this work has been inspired by the application of traditional applied behaviour analysis principles, while others have involved unique combinations of experimental cognitive and social psychological research and public health perspectives. These alternative contemporary perspectives within the broad field of cognitive-behaviour

therapy which draw heavily from experimental psychology will continue to be represented in *Behaviour Change*.

The journal will continue to publish empirical studies (using either group comparison or single case methodologies), integrative reviews, occasional special issues on important topics, case studies which document innovative approaches to dealing with difficult or complex cases and book reviews on any aspect of behavioural assessment or intervention likely to be of interest to a multidisciplinary audience. In addition, I am keen to run a series of brief articles on training opportunities in behaviour therapy in Australasia, papers that highlight important ethical issues relevant to the field, and the use of computers and technology in behavioural assessment and therapy. Special issues on behavioural family intervention with children and adolescents, training, and on problems of the elderly are also planned. I am also prepared to publish brief clinical reports of treatment innovations that appear to be worthy of further investigation or evaluation, and occasional letters to the editor which address issues of significant concern to the field.

The advancement of the field of behaviour therapy and modification benefits from dialogue between clinicians and researchers, and processes of systematic independent replication. Towards this end I look forward to receiving manuscripts from practitioners in non-academic settings which detail innovative applications with difficult clients, or replication of existing procedures with new client groups. Finally, I will endeavour to establish a prompt and efficient review process, with minimal delays between notification of acceptance and actual publication of the article.