

Editorial

It is with pleasure that I introduce this first issue of The Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counselling and hope readers find it of value, interest and relevance to their work. During my numerous conversations with researchers and practitioners in the rehabilitation field I have been agreeably surprised at the enthusiasm for the introduction of a refereed Journal in our region that focuses on tertiary rehabilitation. Many commented that such a Journal is long overdue, 'fills a gap' and provides the attractive option of publishing 'locally'. This enthusiasm has been matched by that of researchers outside of the region who have demonstrated interest in the Journal through participation as Consulting Editors, the submission of manuscripts and the 'taking out' of subscriptions to the Journal.

The scope of the Journal is intended to be broad, covering a range of topics in the field of rehabilitation, from rehabilitation counselling and rehabilitation education, through to independent living and disability management. It is hoped that the Journal will provide rehabilitation practitioners with a vehicle and an incentive to undertake and publish research in their area of work. In an effort to develop 'rehabilitation researchers', the Journal, with the support of the Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors (ASORC) and Massey University in New Zealand, has introduced a Student Manuscript Competition. This Competition is open to students in all countries.

The Journal also represents a milestone for the rehabilitation counselling profession in our region. It is testimony to the ongoing development of the profession and provides a vehicle of international standard for the publication of research into the practice of rehabilitation counselling. In recognition of this, the main emphasis of the first issue is on rehabilitation counselling, with an interesting selection of informative and challenging articles in this area.

Editing the Journal requires the assistance of a number of people, all of whom require thanks. These include the 25 Consulting Editors who have been diligent in providing constructive and timely feedback to authors, Mike Hancock whom has been tireless in his efforts in the production and marketing of the Journal, Maggie Magafakis for the extensive marketing campaign undertaken, Trevor Hawkins for coordinating the Student Manuscript Competition and Lyn Bennett for typesetting the Journal. I want to thank Herbert Biggs, Associate Editor, for his assistance and advice in a range of areas, and particularly for his work as Editor of the Print and Media Review Section of the Journal.

I also want to express my gratitude to George Shouksmith of Massey University and the State Branches of ASORC for supporting the Student Manuscript Competition, to John O'Gorman at Griffith University for his encouragement of the Journal and to Michael Reardon and ASORC for supporting the publication of the Journal. Finally, acknowledgement is due Stephen Pearce, in his role as Founding Editor of the ASORC Bulletin, for his 'trail blazing' efforts to establish a publication in rehabilitation that was an innovative and popular forerunner of this Journal.

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Editor