

EDITORIAL

I could imagine that many an incoming Editor to an internationally refereed Journal would feel slightly anxious about a loose end or two and the inevitable sea change in their focused profession that has occurred in the interregnum between editions. The reality that I feel far from anxious can be attributed to a combination of events and sensible planning; and not all on my part! My predecessor as Editor, Dr Nick Buys, deserves a special commendation for both his dedication and professionalism in establishing the Journal; long a dream of many an ASORC member, and his prescience in planned involvement and editorial succession. The end result has been an orderly transition of editorial duties and allocation of other myriad tasks. Dr Buys is to be congratulated in his role as inaugural Editor of the Journal. Very pleasingly he continues his association with the Journal as a Consulting Editor.

I am also pleased to notify a number of changes to the Editorial Panel. The Journal welcomes Professor Paul Leung of Deakin University, Australia and Dr Ross Flett of Massey University, New Zealand as Associate Editors. In addition to assisting the Editor in general, both Professor Leung and Dr Flett will act as ambassadors for the Society, and encourage academics and practitioners to view *The Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counselling* as an appropriate and valued publisher of research and practitioner findings. Professor Leung is a distinguished academic and researcher in the rehabilitation and disability field. Prior to being offered a position as Deakin University Dr Leung was for several years a leader in rehabilitation programs in the United States and Editor of the *Journal of Rehabilitation*. Our Journal's gain is thus quite significant — Welcome Paul. Dr Flett is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Massey University, New Zealand. As a social psychologist he has worked closely with rehabilitation experts in New Zealand in developing the inaugural training programs in rehabilitation studies. He is an expert researcher and has a foundation knowledge of rehabilitation counselling in New Zealand — Welcome Ross. In addition, Professor Leung will assume the duties of Editor of the Print and Media Review Section of the Journal and Dr Flett will take responsibility for the Student Manuscript competition.

Effective from this edition I have introduced a process of two year Consultant Editorial appointments whereby the Journal will have access to both experienced reviewers and new contributors to provide contemporary academic and practitioner comment. The net effect is to ensure a blend of experience and innovation that will allow opportunities for a great number of motivated individuals to contribute over time. In this regard can I thank the following most sincerely for their contribution to the Journal in its inaugural stage: Ms Di Gursansky, University of South Australia; Ms Diane Munrowd, WorkCover, Western Australia; Dr Dimity Peter, Flinders University; and Dr Martha Lenz Walker, Kent State University. Additionally may I also welcome the following Consultant Editors to the Journal: Ms Heather Byrne, Southern Cross University; Mr Peter Foreman, LaTrobe University; Dr Donal McAnanney, University College, Ireland; and Dr Rod Rothwell, University of Sydney. Thank you one and all for both past and future contributions in the role of Consultant Editor.

Subscribers to the Journal should also note a number of other planned changes which will occur over the next few editions. There is a strong likelihood of at least

one special edition in the next calendar year which is likely to focus on important themes arising from the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Society in 1999. The successful Student Manuscript Competition will continue on an annual basis and it is planned to commission a number of expert focussed papers to raise subscriber awareness on important and emerging issues in the field of rehabilitation generally and rehabilitation counselling in particular. A number of minor changes to the Journal's layout are also planned from the 4th Volume onwards.

This edition of the Journal contains a set of articles of interest and importance. Maxie Ashton and Josephine Dowsett report on consultations with consumers of mental health services on essential rehabilitation services in gaining and retaining paid employment. Laurie Buys reviews services available to adults with intellectual disability in a number of community based organisations and comments on the lack of specialised services for the majority elderly users. Paul Leung and Renee Hauff note the increasing involvement of persons with disabilities in higher education and examine whether their support needs are met as students either by the education provider or the funding bodies. Anthony Mitchell provides a qualitative study of job satisfaction and occupational stress experienced by a group of rehabilitation counsellors in South Australia and argues for consistent and durable employer strategies to reduce staff turnover. Finally, Brian McGuire provides a critique of a commonly used test of everyday memory in rehabilitation settings and its use as a screening tool for memory impairment.

By way of conclusion may I once again thank sincerely the work and dedication of the previous Editor and retiring members of the Consultant Editorial Panel. The Associate Editors, the Consulting Editors, the Editorial Staff of Mike Hancock and Tim Peddle, and I look forward with enthusiasm to serving the needs of the Journal and its subscribers over the coming editions.

Herbert Biggs Ph.D

Editor



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