Changes in your Journal

Chris Rissel, Jeanne Daly, Damien Jolley, Adrian Bauman
Interim Editorial Panel

As you will have realised from the flyer sent out with the August 2002 issue of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia, the editorial team of the Journal has changed. After three years Rob Moodie (Editor-in-Chief) and Chris Borthwick (Managing Editor) have passed on the editorial role to an interim editorial group. This group comprises Adrian Bauman, Jeanne Daly, Damien Jolley and Chris Rissel. We will edit this and the April 2003 issue while applications for a new editor are invited and reviewed (contact the Australian Health Promotion Association Executive Officer directly for more information on this process).

One immediate change that will affect contributors is in the way the Journal produced. The Australian Health Promotion Association has engaged a production company, Substitution, to handle all the correspondence associated with liaising with authors (acknowledging receipt of papers, providing feedback from reviewers and editorial decisions) and reviewers (identified by the editors). It will also be responsible for all the technical aspects of production, including copy editing, preparation of page proofs, indexing, and the printing and distribution processes. The main reasons for this change are to reduce the costs associated with producing the Journal and to improve the efficiency of systems to process submitted manuscripts. Substitution also provides this service for the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health and other publications.

All correspondence associated with the Journal’s editorial content should be addressed to the Editors, Health Promotion Journal of Australia, PO Box 351, North Melbourne, Victoria 3051, or sent by e-mail to hpja@substitution.com.au. We invite you to submit new manuscripts concerned with any aspect of health promotion.

Journals of professional associations rely on the voluntary contribution of members and other professionals to maintain the standard of submissions through the review process. While this involves some time and effort in critical analysis, the rewards of a reviewer are keeping abreast of the latest developments and programs as well as the knowledge that you have done your bit for the field. If you are interested in being a reviewer please contact the Journal and advise us of your areas of interest and expertise.

As interim editors, we do not see it as our role to introduce sweeping changes to the Journal. Setting directions and goals for the Journal should be the responsibility of the new editor. As any editorial team would do, we will maintain and attempt to raise the standards of manuscripts published in the Journal while meeting the needs of practitioners, researchers and policy makers. As always, the Journal is a forum to showcase excellence in Australian health promotion research. We endorse the principles of the Australian Health Promotion Association, including equity and social justice, shared responsibility for health, professional excellence, ethical practice and ecologically sustainable practice.

The Australian Health Promotion Association aims to be recognised as the peak health promotion body in Australia, maximising inclusion of health promotion principles and practices into national and local health policy, planning and actions. A key strategic objective of the association is to advance the quality and effectiveness of health promotion action through improved knowledge, practices and policy, and the Health Promotion Journal of Australia is an important way to achieve this objective.

All the papers in this issue of the Journal were processed by the previous editors. A number of them deal with health promotion in general practice, primary health care or other diverse settings. Others, by their diversity, clearly illustrate the range of settings and issues to which health promotion applies.

In addition to the submitted and peer-reviewed papers, several editorials were invited to reflect on health promotion in Australia. The president of the Australian Health Promotion Association, Associate Professor Jan Ritchie, discusses the perspectives of unpredictability and certainty, and how they related to health promotion paradigms. Marilyn Wise and Rob Moodie discuss the International Union of Health Promotion and Education’s 2004 international conference in Melbourne. Penny Hawe and Adrian Bauman reflect on health promotion in the Americas and make comparisons with the Australian context.

We invite you to contribute to health promotion discussions through your contributions to the Health Promotion Journal of Australia.