



Editorial

Gabby Robathan • Editor

The process of developing the *Australian Infection Control* journal into a professionally peer-reviewed publication is nearly complete. Just prior to going to print, I received confirmation from all but one of the prospective editorial board members. That board will consist of four infection control practitioners, four clinical microbiologists, three epidemiologists and two infectious diseases physicians. The names of the new board members – whose primary role is that of reviewing articles submitted for publication in the journal – will be published in the spring issue of *Australian Infection Control*, due for release in September 1998. Becoming a journal of review will provide a high standard of published papers and support and encourage authors through constructive criticism of their articles.

An article published in the last edition of the journal covered a controversial issue relating to the use of 'sharps' containers. The article – entitled 'Investigating management costs of disposable versus reusable sharps containers' – has generated some interesting letters to the editor, some of which will be

published in the next issue of the journal. Controversy is a positive and stimulating aspect of publication that can generate new ideas and different ways of thinking about issues which are essential to the growth and development of a discipline. Therefore, papers are welcomed that challenge and explore different aspects and perspectives on the practice of infection control. As a professional community, however, we deal with ideas and do not support the use of professional publications to advance commercial or personal interests.

Authors of letters to the editor are reminded that preference will be given to letters containing less than 300 words, that submitted letters will be sent to the relevant author for right of reply and that the editor reserves the right to abridge or otherwise edit such letters.

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