

This issue of the *Australian Journal of Primary Health* features a selection of papers about general practice in Australia. These papers reflect a range of perspectives important in general practice, including disease management in the general practice context, innovative approaches to prevention, consumer perspectives on conditions and services, future development of general practice in the primary health care system, and more. Publication of these papers occurs at a time when development of the National Primary Health Care Strategy is well under way. The focus of the National Primary Health Care Strategy is on related themes of prevention, chronic disease, evidence-based practice and better integration of general practice into the primary health care system.

Through the 2008 World Health Report, *Primary Health Care: Now More Than Ever*: “WHO hopes to start a global conversation on the effectiveness of primary health care as a way of reorienting national health systems” (World Health Organization, 2008, p. 1). The four broad directions that WHO considers fundamental to primary health care are: universal coverage; people-centred services; healthy public policies; and leadership. “By aiming at these four primary health care goals, national health systems can

become more coherent, more efficient, more fair and vastly more effective” (WHO, 2008, p. 1). Many of the papers in this issue are consistent with those themes. In particular, the literature review by Labonté and others, offers thoughtful reflections on primary health care development.

The *Australian Journal of Primary Health* has embarked on a development process that will, from the beginning of 2009, provide you with much greater access and functionality in your dealings with the journal. Production of the journal has been outsourced to CSIRO Publishing.¹ From the first issue in 2009 there will be four issues per year, slightly smaller in size and with a fresh design. Furthermore, there will be full electronic access to current and past issues, it will be fully indexed in the electronic databases, and we anticipate having an impact factor assigned by late 2009. There will be some changes in the content. We will regularly publish substantial literature reviews, there will be a new letters section, as well as some further developments in the other sections of the journal. Renewal notices will come from CSIRO Publishing and on a calendar year basis. We consider these to be exciting developments and we think you will appreciate them too.

Rae Walker
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Reference

World health Organization (2008) *World health report 2008: primary health care now more than ever*. World health Organization, Geneva. http://www.who.int/whr/2008/whr08_en.pdf

¹ www.publish.csiro.au