



Editorial

Gabby Robathan • Editor in Chief

As the end of the millennium approaches and with a new century about to begin, it is opportune to reflect on the progress of the *Australian Infection Control (AIC)* journal.

In March 1995, as inaugural editor in chief, Dianne Dalton achieved the incredible feat of publishing the first issue of *AIC*. In 1997 I inherited a well-established publication and 12 months later formed the editorial board, thereby fulfilling AICA's objective of creating a fully peer-reviewed journal. This year I am awaiting the outcome of an application to the National Library of Medicine to have *AIC* indexed for Index Medicus®/MEDLINE®. This final step will complete my objectives as editor in chief, since my term of office expires in May 2000 and I will not be seeking re-nomination. It is time for some 'fresh blood' to take the journal forward to its next stage of development.

I have really enjoyed the challenge of the editor's position, have learned so much in a relatively short period of time and feel proud to have been a small part of this exciting project. The advertisement below asks suitably qualified parties to apply for the position of editor in chief, and I strongly urge those interested to consider doing so, as it is an extremely rewarding position. I will be freely available and willing to provide assistance to the new editor in chief during the transition phase.

There is a wealth of infection control knowledge and experience in Australia and considerable ability among infection

control practitioners to share such knowledge and experience through the publication of articles in the journal.

In the last issue of *AIC*, Glenn Gardner described the various formats published material can take. While formal research articles are more than welcome, those that describe a change of practice, evaluation of current practice, a literature review on a particular topic or a case study, as well as book reviews and letters to the editor on a previously published article, are all ways in which Australian infection control can be shared among practitioners.

This issue, the last for the 20th century, looks forward to the credentialling process for infection control and a national consensus on infection control surveillance for Australia. These two topics have been the subject of considerable debate of late and agreement has finally been reached on the future of both. Congratulations to all involved in both processes.

Recent state association elections have seen changes in the journal's state representatives. I would like to thank outgoing representatives Kathy Dempsey (NSW), Robyn Taverner (WA), Janice Geary (Qld) and Di Dreimanis (ACT) for their excellent contribution to *AIC*, and welcome new representatives Marilyn Beattie, Alison Thrum, Merrilyn Curtis and Katrina Scott. The state pages are an important link and source of information both within and between the states.

I will also take this opportunity to wish all our readers joy in the festive season, and *AIC* every success in 2000. That success will depend very much on the authorship of members, so please, go forth and write!



Call for nominations – editor in chief, *Australian Infection Control*

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the position of editor in chief of *Australian Infection Control*, which becomes vacant in May 2000. The position is of 2 years' duration, with the option to continue for a second term.

Written expressions of interest, stating reasons for applying, should be forwarded to

The President, Australian Infection Control Association, PO Box 322, Wilston Qld 4051 by Friday, 10 March 2000.

Applications received after the close of business on that date will not be considered.