

# Call for Papers

## Access to Primary Health Care



### Guest Editors

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The Australian Journal of Primary Health invites papers on access to health and social care services in community-based primary health care settings: the current status of access for people and communities, factors contributing to improved – or worsened – access, and ways to improve access. We are interested in diverse submissions including research reports, articles describing innovative practice or implementation of evidence, literature reviews, and forum articles that address important issues.

### Overview

Access to care has been defined as the opportunity to reach and obtain appropriate health care in situations of perceived need for care both at the patient and service delivery level (Levesque, et al., 2013). The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically changed how healthcare is delivered, how people and communities perceive a need for care, as well as how they seek care. This special issue aims to document current experiences of access among different populations, highlight new approaches to improve access to care, re-developed models of care, consumer perspectives, and revisions of frameworks of access in a “post-pandemic” healthcare system: gains made and the importance of not slipping back. Given the global focus on primary health, how can we focus on a future outlined by the Alma Ata and Astana Declarations of 1978 and 2018?

### Key questions

Papers may address the following topics (or other relevant questions):

- What is the current scenario in access to health and social care services?
- What are the drivers of access specific to patients and communities?
- How can access to care be realised for everyone?
- How can patient-centred care delivery models improve access?
- How can structural barriers to access be eliminated?
- What policy and funding models are needed to improve access?
- How are consumers leading research and practice in access to care?

### Key areas

We welcome submissions that emphasise the range of perspectives on access, and how systems and communities can facilitate access in primary health care settings. Papers may be forum articles addressing policy, research and service delivery issues, research papers, literature reviews, or practice and innovation articles. Further details on these paper types can be found at <https://www.publish.csiro.au/py/forauthors/AuthorInstructions>

We particularly invite submissions based on access to comprehensive primary health care for specific populations, including highly stigmatised groups, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health, people experiencing social isolation, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people living in poverty, and people living in rural and regional areas.

### Submissions

We invite **full submissions by October 31 2023**. You may send your abstract as an *expression of interest by July 31st 2023* to Dr Peart at [annette.peart@monash.edu](mailto:annette.peart@monash.edu) to confirm its suitability for the special issue. Please submit your complete manuscript online at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/csiro-py> and select “Access to PHC” during the submission process. Papers will be sent to review after their fit to the scope of the Special Issue has been confirmed. Your paper should conform to the Australian Journal of Primary Health’s [Author Instructions](#). **For questions** please contact [annette.peart@monash.edu](mailto:annette.peart@monash.edu).

Articles will be published online as accepted to ensure *swift publication*. There will be further publicity for all included articles when the special issue is formally published in mid-2024. We plan to launch the issue at the Annual Australasian Association for Academic Primary Care Conference in 2024.

## About the Journal

The **Australian Journal of Primary Health** (AJPH) is published by CSIRO Publishing on behalf of the Australian Institute for Primary Care & Ageing at La Trobe University. The AJPH is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes research articles, literature reviews, reports of evidence-based practice and innovation, forum articles and letters. The AJPH aims to provide its readers with information on issues influencing community health services and primary health care, and on integrating theory and practice utilising perspectives from a range of disciplines. For further information please see <http://www.publish.csiro.au/py>.

## Reference

Levesque, JF., *et al.* (2013) Patient-centred access to health care: conceptualising access at the interface of health systems and populations. *International Journal for Equity in Health* **12**, 18.