

## Editorial

This issue contains a miscellany. These reports present strategic guidelines for managing adolescent students with chronic illnesses (Rowe), a behavioural schedule for assessing academic skills of tertiary students (Devlin), a scale revised to assess body dissatisfaction and disordered eating among prepubescent children (Tricker & McCabe), at-risk variables warranting intervention in infants of low birthweight (Dezoete & MacArthur), developmental differences in the optimism of children's judgements about their performance of motor tasks beyond their ability (Coote & Livesey), an exploration of how psychologists behave in decision making when a father denies alleged child abuse (Turner & Knowles), and an examination of the role of education in implementing prosocial public policy on water conservation and the role of development in school-based prosocial education (Watson). There is also a brief report on the 1999 professional development program in the Victorian Section and a book review on the general topic of psychological measurement that analyses specific implications for the popular Likert scale approach to measurement.

From 2001, GST adds 10% to journal subscriptions. The second issue in 2000 does attract 5% GST, to be carried by the journal. From 2001, there is also a planned 10% increase in preGST subscription rate, so that members will have to absorb a total rise of 20%. In this way, the number of rises is minimal, but the total change appears maximal!

In this Olympic year, it can be said that the torch carried by the Tasmanian Section has been passed to the Victorian Section. The small Tasmanian Section continued their sterling stewardship of the National Executive into extra time. The Victorian Section has resumed responsibility for the National Executive, with a different team of individuals willing to serve College interests and with John Munro in the chair. The executive is then likely to pass to the smaller Sections in either New South Wales or Western Australia: At least, the current executive has that hope.

The national executive represents the College in the Society and advances the professional interests of College members. The workload in advancing CEDP perspective to the APS is generally large. For example, a draft document on standards for the delivery of psychological services in educational settings is before the executive. College members can communicate with the new national committee when they have viewpoints, feedback, or particular professional concerns on matters such as supervision and professional development. Members can and do shape policy by bringing their comments and concerns to their Section Representatives who take part in regular teleconferences with the executive or, in inactive Sections, to the national committee.

There are several issues of professional interest under review at this time. Professional development activities are becoming more accessible around the country, but the user-friendliness of the scheme needs further improvement. One proposal is that points for professional development (PD) could be linked

to the Society's indemnity insurance for practitioners and to compliance certificates that are useful for some practitioners' portfolios and performance reviews. In this way, College membership may not be contingent upon an up-to-date PD record. In the meantime, members should continue to document their PD activities.

Another issue is that of eligibility for College membership. There is ongoing debate about the direction of the College and the evolving nature of eligibility criteria. The basic requirements for new applicants are a Masters degree approved for the College followed by two years of supervision. An alternative proposal is three-step entry by initial proposal (peer support and Section nomination), then presentation of practice folios and publication, and then examination. On the one hand, inclusive membership may invigorate practitioner participation and provide wider representation of the practitioner community. On the other hand, more exclusionary criteria for membership may better promote professional standards for formal education, supervision, and continuing professional education and facilitate lobbying for government support for specialist educational and developmental services to Australian families and other clients.

Two conferences on development are noted for your diary. The 12th Australasian Human Development Conference will be held in Brisbane, 2-4 July, 2001, Emmanuel College, The University of Queensland. Their website at <http://www.psy.uwa.edu.au/user/ahda/> provides more information.

The XVI Biennial Conference of the International Society for the Study of Behavioural Development (ISSBD) will be held in Beijing, 11-14 July, 2000. The program will cover a range of topics on human development across the lifespan. Among the 21 keynote speakers will be Judy Dunn from the UK (family process); Kenneth Rubin from the US (children's social development); and Ann Sanson from Australia (temperament). A preconference workshop from the 9th July will address cultural and lifespan perspectives on human development. Participating scholars will include Marc Bornstein, Joseph Campos, and Michael Lewis from the US; Qi Dong from China; and Richard Trembley from Canada. Dr Donna Berthelsen recommends this conference as very friendly and small enough (about 1,000 people) to provide good opportunities to network with others with similar interests in development areas. She can be contacted by e-mail ([berthelsen@qut.edu.au](mailto:berthelsen@qut.edu.au)). The web address for the conference is <http://www.ciccst.org.cn/issbd>.

Also, members interested in a useful overview of lifespan development and gerontology are directed to <http://www.cas.flinders.edu.au/sanra/occasional/paper3/mart.html> to view Mary Luszcz's inaugural professorial lecture (Flinders University of South Australia) on Psychological Ageing: Themes and Variations. She published a report in AEDP December 1998 and gave a keynote at the 1999 annual conference of the Australian Psychological Society in Hobart.

The next issue is a special issue on language development edited by Dr Jan Fletcher, and the November 2000 issue is likely to be focused on research on Australian adolescents.

*Fiona Bryer*  
Editor

