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## FROM THE EDITOR - Heather Dawson-Byrne

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### A FOCUS ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

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Christmas is approaching, the year 2000 is nearly complete and the Y2K bugs never did catch us. While we waited in nervous anticipation this time last year, what we have experienced from this first year of the millennium is more of the same. More news stories of starving children, more politicians promising to find answers, more need in the community, more people finding fault in systems and more nurses working long hours. We are also seeing a more visible response to issues by nurses, be they researchers, policy makers, academics, managers or clinicians.

Violence in the workplace recently became a prominent story run by a number of national and local media agents. It was gratifying to hear the response from nursing bodies, such as the Australian Nursing Federation, and to hear that nurses were researching this area within the Australian health care sector.

It is also gratifying to know that those researchers and authors were nurses and would rely on nursing journals such as *The Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing* to publish their findings.

This issue of *The Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing* focuses on violence in the workplace, specifically hospitals in Australia. Gerry Farrell begins the focus with his guest editorial.

The first paper by Joy Lyneham, discloses results of research completed in Accident and Emergency departments in New South Wales hospitals. While much of her work will not be news to those who have experienced workplace violence, the absence of appropriate response to violent situations is a huge area for potential workplace reform. Her research and results should make a significant contribution to this area of nursing culture.

Nick Santamaria has provided the readership with a research project that investigates the interactions of those people who become difficult clients and the personality factors of the nurses who attend them.

Jackie Jones and Joy Lyneham provide a paper that is a scholarly debate based on the violence research of Joy Lyneham and others and take the view that violence is currently concealed and this fact must be addressed.

David Evans and Inge Kowanko discuss the evolution of literature reviews as a research methodology. This paper provides a great conceptual framework for literature reviews.

The final article, by Steven La Grow and Charmaine Hamilton, offers a discussion of basic principles of single-case experimental designs and their potential use in evaluating nursing interventions for individual clients.

This being the last issue for the year 2000, I wish to thank all those who contributed during the year to the success of the journal. Bountiful thanks go to the ever-energetic staff who beaver away behind the scenes tirelessly throughout the year. I would also like to thank the authors who contributed to the journal this year and those aspirant authors who were unsuccessful in gaining print status. The sheer volume of manuscripts that were peer reviewed by this journal during the past year is unprecedented. With only 20 manuscripts able to be published in any one year, the authors whose works were unsuccessful were in very good company.

Finally my sincere thanks to the review panel who give their time so willingly and sometimes at quite short notice. The journal could not continue without the support of this wonderful group of dedicated nurses.

May you all have a safe and happy festive season.

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