

## FROM THE EDITORS - Margaret McMillan and Jane Conway

### A REFLECTIVE PIECE

In comparing notes on experiences and issues with peers, one can get a sense of how a journal such as *AJAN* compares with others. Margaret has just returned from the International Academy of Nurse Editors (INANE) Conference in the Bahamas. Over 100 nurse editors from the USA, UK, Australia, Canada and South Africa met to discuss ideas on journals, editorial roles and responsibilities, and contemporary nursing. INANE was first established in 1981 and is representative of a group of nurses who edit both generic and specialty publications. Those at the meeting discussed issues the Editorial Board of *AJAN* has canvassed on numerous occasions. Matters examined included: how to best manage the editorial office and processes; the strengths and limitations of using technology to track manuscripts; the challenges in sustaining a quality and timely review process; the constraints among support for nurse authors in their attempts to write; the need to maintain reader interest and scholarly standards in the journal; marketing matters; and tensions in decision making about the specific or generic nature of a publication.

This is our final editorial for *AJAN*. In concluding our commitment to the journal, we wish to reflect on how we've approached the task. When we began three years ago, we asked questions about what *AJAN* itself was about and what the implications of it being published by the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) were. We concluded that *AJAN* is a positive influence on Australian nursing and nurses are fortunate that the ANF has a vision for the advancement of nursing practice that is inclusive of diversity and acknowledges the need to integrate practice, research and scholarship.

For each issue of *AJAN* we have selected six manuscripts and extracted what we thought was their most important piece of commentary on nursing. We have tried to interweave the key ideas and construct our editorial pieces around these in order to capture the hearts and minds of our readers. The papers in this edition demonstrate the diversity of the scope of nurses' engagement in social issues. They range from a discussion of strategies related to practice in specific contexts, to critical review of social policy and dominant discourses and ideologies.

In this issue, Cole and Jasiak write about the need for a range of strategies to both prevent and manage the incidence of chlamydia among sexually active youth in Australia. Wand's paper identifies how the emergency department mental health liaison nurse role is consistent with Australian and State government policy and is valuable in contributing to enhanced capacity to meet the needs of those whose primary problems are related to mental health issues.

O'Connor and Pearson conduct an analysis of the discourse around care of the dying in order to examine the

potential dissonance between government policy 'Ageing in place' and the increased need for recognition for palliative care among those in aged care facilities.

Fowler and Lee use discourse analysis in their paper to explore the experience of learning to mother. In what the authors themselves acknowledge is an extreme example, the extent to which dominant discourses within literature related to motherhood can overwhelm the need to recognise, value and work with the individual experience of mothering is exemplified.

In addition to exploring issues related to society in general, in this issue elements of nursing's own social context are explored. In writing of one of the most publicised issues in health care work, Deans identifies the need for greater organisational support to limit the professional impact of workplace violence. He writes that there has been a focus on organisational rather than personal impact among nurse administrators and challenges the profession to 'acknowledge and claim ownership of the psychological injury experienced by its members'.

In a similar vein, Madison and Minichiello looked at the specific challenge of identifying and responding to sexual harassment in the workplace. Their paper highlights a need for greater alignment between educational preparation and workplace experience.

We have enjoyed the privilege of being able to 'indulge' our interests in examining nursing practice from the point of view of those who contribute to *AJAN*. In the last few years we have observed nurses making their way out of the administrative abyss, through the quagmires of boards and policy forming committees, along the corridors of restructures and realignments of processes, and into the challenges of 'working alongside' their contemporaries in a range of professions. We have noted the extent to which nurses appear to struggle with being centered in, but not overwhelmed by, the apparent complexity of giving the patient what they need in workplaces that are undergoing tremendous change. Therefore, in our editorials we have focused strongly on leadership in nursing. To this end we have invited Tuyen Tran, Manager of the Villa Maria Aged Care Centre, as the Guest Editor to share her story on the beginnings of her life in Australia and nursing.

As part of our personal journeys, our interaction with the profession through the editorial process has enabled us to develop our own capacity to identify a clear view of what we think nurses and nursing is really about today; and to extend and re-immerses ourselves in clinical practice issues - albeit vicariously.

It is our pleasure to welcome Jackie Jones to the role of *AJAN* Editor. We wish her much success and satisfaction in the role and trust that her experience is as positive as ours has been.