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EDITORIAL

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Welcome to the first edition of AJAN online. From Volume 25, AJAN will be fully online and freely available online from its own website: <http://www.ajan.com.au>. The AJAN can be downloaded from the website by article or by complete issue. Back volumes will also be available.

This is a very exciting development for AJAN. It will give unlimited national and international access to AJAN manuscripts and provide unlimited national and international exposure for authors and their work.

The Australian Nursing Federation, publisher of AJAN, has a strong commitment to making nursing research freely available through the internet and to supporting nurse researchers by publishing their work. Other organisations, which appear on the AJAN homepage as sponsors, have made a similar commitment and it is through their generosity and their faith in nurse researchers that AJAN can take this exciting step into the future.

Volume 25 is special in another way as it marks 25 years since AJAN was first published. In the next issue of AJAN we will revisit the people and events that brought AJAN into being.

The successful retention of nurses is a critical factor in maintaining a sufficient nursing workforce for the future. In this issue of AJAN, Spooner-Lane and Patton explore the influence of work stressors and work support on burnout among a sample of

public hospital nurses in south east Queensland; Long and West examine the elements required for a successful re-entry program for nurses following a career break; Charleston et al discuss the importance of effective orientation for the confidence and learning of graduates working in the area of mental health; and Joyce and Crookes report on the development of an Australian specific tool which provides a valid and reliable measure of magnet features in Australian health facilities. (The magnet concept, developed in the United States of America identifies characteristics of a health facility which make it successful in attracting and retaining nursing staff.)

Aged care is becoming an increasingly important area of nursing with our ageing population. Three papers in this issue of AJAN explore different aspects of aged care nursing. Speed et al undertook a study to estimate the prevalence of delirium in two hospitals in Western Australia. Their findings suggest that, particularly in older people, delirium may go undiagnosed and untreated because behaviours associated with delirium are often assumed to be caused by dementia. A paper by Holm et al from Sweden discusses the importance of nutrition in older people in preventing decubitus ulcers while, still on the aged care theme, the paper by Crack and Crack raises concerns about the diminishing role of registered nurses in the management of nutrition for older people in residential facilities.

The significant impact nurses can have on health outcomes and health costs is demonstrated in the paper by Flint et al who investigated the progression from gastric tube feeds to full suckle feeds and discharge home of preterm infants, concluding that length of stay in hospital can be reduced for these preterm infants if discharge

planning is commenced early. Murphy et al examined compliance with phase one cardiac rehabilitation guidelines in the inpatient setting and while compliance has been shown to improve cardiac outcomes, they found that potential benefits were not being realised because of non-compliance.

The willingness of nurses to challenge stereotypes and extend their areas of expertise are demonstrated in the papers by Irwin, who discusses discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; and by McClure et al who, in another international paper, this one from the United States of America, explore the role of the advanced practice nurse in group therapy for people who abuse alcohol.

The development of a conceptual model to enhance critical thinking skills in a group of nurses from the

middle east is described by Simpson and Courtney who suggest the model has much wider application in creating a learning environment to develop critical thinking and promote professionalism in nursing.

And finally, our guest editorial is written by David Arthur, a long serving member of the AJAN Editorial Advisory Board. The EAB, as do AJAN reviewers, give generously of their time and expertise to support nurse researchers and promote nursing research. The establishment of AJAN twenty five years ago and its progression to a freely available online peer reviewed journal carrying national and international contributions has been possible because of the dedication, determination, contribution and commitment of so many nurses over the years. We are all indebted to them.