

Welcoming the new ANZJPH editor-in-chief

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ANZJPH has a proud history and ongoing commitment of contributing to public health improvement through the dissemination of quality public health research. Following the distinguished tenure of Professor John Lowe, the journal has Professor Luke Wolfenden appointed as the new editor-in-chief. The Journal also has two new editorial positions to strengthen editorial processes—Dr Alix Hall has been appointed as the deputy editor and Dr Sam McCrabb as the policy and systems manager. In a changing academic landscape where we continue to face new and increasing challenges to scientific integrity, our goal is to remain a trusted source of public health evidence and the journal of choice for public health researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

On behalf of ANZJPH Editors, we would like to present broad actions that we are intending to undertake. We are developing strategies to achieve two primary objectives of the ANZJPH; namely, to publish high-quality research and to support knowledge translation of this research.

Publishing high-quality research

To ensure the journal continues to adopt quality scientific publication standards, we are reviewing (and will continue to review) our processes, policies and procedures in alignment with the recommendations of the Committee on Publication Ethics and the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. We are currently updating and developing policies in a number of areas, for example, introducing a formal appeal process for editorial decisions and a conflicts of interest policy. We will amend information on our website to reflect these changes as they occur and will, at times, publish supporting editorials to explain the rationale for substantive changes. To improve reporting and transparency of research, we will also introduce the requirements for authors to adopt relevant reporting guidelines such as those found on the EQUATOR Network

(<https://www.equator-network.org/>). This is intended to improve the quality of reporting¹ for peer reviewers and for end-users to assess, compare and apply research findings.

Supporting research translation and impact

Investment in health research is intended to generate tangible benefits to people, populations and societies. To facilitate research impact of the work we publish, ANZJPH will develop a knowledge translation strategy designed to facilitate the publication of research that adds value to the existing evidence base, and to support its distribution to those who could facilitate translatable outcomes of research findings (for population benefits). While we will continue to publish many types of research within the journal's scope, we will also be undertaking a research priority setting process. Prioritisation is important to ensure that the work published by the journal will have a beneficial impact on public health research, policy and/or practice. We encourage public health researchers, professionals and community members to contribute to this process through the completion of a brief survey available at: <https://redcap.link/fuxic8ma>. The survey will be open for contribution until the 27th of January 2025.

We are also mindful that ANZJPH is dependent on our authors, expert peer reviewers, editorial board members and others donating their time and expertise to support public health research and practice. As such, we will examine ways to create a better user experience for those submitting or reviewing works to the journal, and those who draw on ANZJPH to access evidence and information. For example, where possible, we are discussing strategies to implement to reduce our time to reach a final decision for submitted manuscripts, simplify submission processes, update publication formats and improve navigation of our website. We are also considering ways we can help strengthen and build capacity among the public health and research workforce.

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We are looking forward to actioning these and other initiatives over the coming years to continue to improve and promote the exceptional public health work that is conducted within Australia, New Zealand and further abroad.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: All authors are editors for ANZJPH. LW is the editor-in-chief,

AH is the deputy editor and SM is the policy and systems manager for ANZJPH. If there are other authors, they declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Reference

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