

## EDITORIALS

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# Relaunching the Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing (AJAN)

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It gives us great pleasure to introduce the new-look *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing (AJAN)* to our Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) members and local and international readers. As we enter 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO)-designated Year of the Nurse and Midwife, there is no better time to relaunch *AJAN*; the scholarly, peer-reviewed sister-publication to the *Australian Nursing and Midwifery Journal (ANMJ)*, with a revised mission and scope, revitalised look, and updated policies and processes.

First of all, we would like to offer our sincerest thanks to the ANMF staff (particularly Anne Willsher who for so long sat at the journal's helm), who have dedicated their time, effort, ideas, and energy to both running *AJAN* over many years and to contributing strongly to its renewal and relaunch. An immense amount of work goes on in the background of running a journal and without our dedicated team's input, *AJAN* may have quietly faded away. We also wish to thank our authors and readers. Despite being a very small journal, we were gratified to see the numbers of individuals who navigated to the *AJAN*'s website, and we continue to be impressed and informed by the many submissions *AJAN* has continued to receive, even during its brief hiatus while renovations were taking place this last year.

As mentioned, the new *AJAN* has a revised mission and scope that builds on and extends upon the journal's previous character and aligns and advances the ANMF's overall strategic objectives as Australia's largest union and professional nursing and midwifery organisation. The ANMF's diverse and dispersed membership works in many sectors including but not limited to public and private health, aged care, schools, tertiary education, research, the community, and disability care across a wide variety of metropolitan, regional, and remote locations. Accordingly, *AJAN* will seek to showcase and promote a wide variety of original research and scholarly work to inform and empower nurses, midwives, and other healthcare professionals to improve the health and wellbeing of all communities and be prepared for the future.

In an increasingly interconnected world, where health, social, and political issues and influences traverse borders as frequently as nurses and others, we proudly remain the *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing*, but also look beyond national borders and will cover issues that affect the regional and global community. Only recently we are hearing that pneumonic plague has been identified in two patients being

treated in Beijing, and already concern is growing regarding the risks of a global pandemic similar to H1N1 ('swine flu')/ H5N1 ('bird flu'). Nations and their health systems cannot ignore international developments and incidents and it is vital that nursing and midwifery are at the forefront in terms of being informed, prepared, and ready with the latest best evidence, skills, and knowledge to meet future challenges head on.

The *Australian Journal of Advanced Nursing* will be a source of rigorously conducted and reported research and analysis that, beyond nursing and midwifery, is also relevant for other health professions, health workforce experts, health services researchers, economists, and policy researchers. As users and producers of rigorous evidence, nurses and midwives are leaders in clinical and maternity care and research. Evidence enables them to influence and test policy and practice across a variety of health and social issues. With high-quality evidence, nurses and midwives will also be better supported to advocate for and advance improved health, maternity, and aged care, better and safer workplace conditions, and speak with a stronger voice for nursing and midwifery wherever there is debate and decision making at local, national, and international levels.

We will seek to publish a variety of original research, review articles, practice guidelines, and commentaries relevant to nursing and midwifery practice, health- maternity- and aged- care delivery, public health, healthcare policy and funding, nursing and midwifery education, regulation, management, economics, ethics, and research methodology. We also hope to publish personal narratives that convey the art and spirit of nursing and midwifery as unique but often undervalued professions.

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles in this, the first revitalised issue of *AJAN*, and in the issues to come. As we enter 2020 – the WHO Year of the Nurse and Midwife, this issue's guest editorial has been written by Professor Emeritus Jill White AM – Western Pacific Member of the Nursing Now Campaign Board. Professor White calls on nurses and midwives to use their significant electoral and political power and look beyond the professions to demonstrate evidence for their contributions to national and global health. Professor White also urges us to commit to establishing a National Nursing Strategy by the end of 2020, as a necessary and powerful tool for change.

Nurses can be central to the initiation of treatment summaries and care plans in the context of cancer

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survivorship. With an increasing number and proportion of people living longer after a cancer diagnosis, supportive care is becoming tremendously important. The first paper in this issue identifies the barriers and enablers to initiating treatment summaries with people who have been affected by cancer and provides lessons for addressing system-level and practical challenges to implementing survivorship care.

A second paper examines patient experience of 'hospital at home' treatment for multiple sclerosis. Patient-centred care is widely recognised to be best-practice and nurses are instrumental in advocating for and delivering interventions that reduce known burdens and often distressing circumstances for patients. Treatment at home can be more convenient and cost-effective for patients, and keeping people out of hospital and in the community can reduce bed-block as well as the risk of hospital-acquired infection.

Nurses and midwives play a critical role in regional and remote health delivery. In this issue you will read an integrative review which provides new and valuable, evidence-based insight into the role of registered nurses in particular and offers suggestions to policy makers for expanding these roles. As we know, rural and remote Australians have more limited access to healthcare than their metropolitan counterparts and also face an increased burden of disease and a different array of health risk factors and social determinants of health. Nurses and midwives can be central to addressing this challenge.

We look forward to working with authors, readers and the Board to enhance the reach, readership, and profile of *AJAN*. Throughout 2020, the journal will continue to evolve and grow as we establish a full editorial board, new author guidelines, and continue to add new features and content to the journal website. This year we will be publishing a series of guest editorials, inviting submissions on current and pressing topics, and also hope to develop helpful training resources for prospective peer-reviewers. We would like to conclude this editorial and introduction to the new *AJAN* by extending an invitation to the researchers and authors across nursing, midwifery, and healthcare to support *AJAN* by submitting their work for publication and by engaging in peer-review.

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