
Editorial

Increasing Participation

During my years of involvement with our Association, I have often pondered on the role that it plays in Australia and our region. We have persisted as a multi-disciplinary body, and rejected a formalised national administration. This seems to me to be both a strength and a weakness. The absence of a formalised national hierarchical structure means that we do not have to create extra finances and divert funds to pay for it. We have always been able to keep the cost of fees relatively low and this is attractive to our members. However, this has meant relying on a loose confederation of state administrative groups to co-ordinate the Association's activities. As individual states fluctuate in the level of activity and commitment occurring from year to year, this can result in fluctuating degrees of efficiency in the operations of the Association.

This loosely federated structure also impacts on the Journal, and it is this I wish to examine more closely here. *Behaviour Change* is (or should be) both our showcase to the wider community, and a source of our professional knowledge. For these roles to be fulfilled we must maintain a steady flow of submitted manuscripts that describe the application and evaluation of new and existing therapies, the gathering of data to assist in the identification of caseness, comments on how we do and use our science, and comments that further debate on the above, among other things.

Despite the dazzling array of work being conducted by our members and their colleagues, the submission of manuscripts, letters, and comments is never more than a steady

trickle. Often during attendance at various conferences and symposia, I am on the lookout for interesting material that might be appropriate for publication. Doubtless I encounter only a small fraction of what is presented and discussed, and it is to this activity I wish to attract members attention. If AACBT is to be a true Association of members, it is up to us all to foster its goals and objectives, and to identify and promote the best of what we do. I would therefore urge you all to encourage the submission of work you encounter that you believe would benefit us all, and the wider community too. If you experience a particularly interesting paper at a conference, go up to the presenter and tell them, and then suggest they should submit it to *Behaviour Change*, so we can all share that experience. If you hear a seminar about someone's work that you find valuable, encourage them too. The sharing of scholarly information and therapeutic expertise requires regular reinforcing if it is to continue and flourish, and your encouragement is likely to have that function. In addition, many of us need prompting to engage in new behaviour, such as preparing material for publication. If only a few of us engage in this reinforcing and prompting behaviour, our Journal will be the poorer, and so will we. But if we all take responsibility to ensure the best and most exciting material appears in *Behaviour Change*, our Journal will be sought out by many, and we will enjoy the fruits of that labour.

Alan Ralph
James Cook University