

Editors' Report

Jonine Jancey – Editor in Chief

Annual General Meeting, Australian Health Promotion Association Ltd

Overview

This report focuses on the 12 month period of **January 1 to December 31st 2013**.

Note that previous Editors' reports have contained extensive data. This year, CSIRO has supplied this data to the AHPA Board separately. This year's report will focus on the management of the Health Promotion Journal of Australia (HPJA). It will discuss developments in the operations of the Journal and steps that are planned for the Journal in the coming year.

Editorial team

The Editorial team remains stable, comprising Editor in Chief, Dr Jonine Jancey and Associate Editors, Professor Colin Binns, Professor Peter Howat (Curtin University) and Associate Professor Stacy Carter (University of Sydney).

The Editorial team work in a collaborative and effective manner, maintaining regular correspondence via phone and email about manuscripts and issues relating to the Journal. Three editorial meetings have been held in this reporting period.

In December 2013, the AHPA Board agreed to the Western Australian Centre for Health Promotion Research at Curtin University to employ an Editorial Assistant for 0.1 FTE to help support the Editors in their work and to promote the Journal. The Editors appreciate this assistance.

Editorial Board

The Editorial Board, comprising 26 national and international researchers and practitioners, provides a broad range of skills and expertise supports the Journal (see attached list). The Editorial Board positively influences the Journal's profile, providing greater access to expert advice in a range of areas and in turn is supportive of manuscript submissions. We would like to thank the Editorial Board members for their contribution.

A systematic approach to better engage the Editorial Board is being mapped. The plan is to contact the Board members on a more regular basis (monthly). This process has commenced and includes an invitation to attend a Journal Editorial Board meeting at the AHPA conference in September 2014. This process is now possible due to the recent engagement of the Editorial Assistant.

Themed Issues

Themed issues are viewed as a way to attract authors, profile the Journal, service the readership and differentiate the Journal. The following themed issues have run or are scheduled to run.

- *Advances in Health Promotion* - released in April 2014. Ten national and international authors from the Editorial Board were invited to contribute, of whom seven responded.
- *Healthy Places and Spaces* - currently being promoted and is scheduled for December 2014 with Chris Rissel as guest editor.
- *Ethics in Health Promotion* - planned for 2015 with Stacy Carter leading a small group of guest editors.



Ethics Approval and Publishing

A requirement of the Journal is that submitted research provides evidence of ethics approval. This has proved challenging at times as practitioners conducting community based quality assurance, service delivery, policy development or implementation, program evaluations and even research activities, at times do not obtain ethics approval. This limits the ability to publish which is detrimental to building the evidence base for health promotion.

However, recently released National Health and Medical Research Council (2014) Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities⁽¹⁾ clearly documents the need for ethics approval irrespective of whether an activity is called research, quality assurance or evaluation. Those conducting these activities need to determine whether the people involved (e.g. participants, staff or the community) will be exposed to any risk, burden, inconvenience or possible breach of privacy. Ethics approval is essential as it acts as an independent arbiter ensuring that the balance of benefits and harms of an activity are justifiable and that participants are respected in the research process.

To support the awareness of ethics in research and practice, the Editorial team is investigating possible opportunities to fund a project to support practitioners to obtain ethics oversight for their projects. To date, there have been several conversations and correspondence with funding bodies and the submission of an expression of interest for project funding. The Editorial team will endeavour to find funding to support this project as this issue has long-term implications for health promotion as well for *HPJA*.

To also facilitate the dissemination of practitioner program evaluation and research outcomes, the Editorial team have revised the guidelines for Letters to the Editor, as this type of manuscript does not require ethics approval. The word count for the Letters to the Editor has been increased to 1000 words, providing a viable avenue to disseminate findings that do not have ethics approval.

CSIRO Publisher

During 2013, a number of changes occurred with the Journal's Publisher, CSIRO. In July 2013, Dr Richard Hecker resigned and Dr Caroline Hadley took on the publisher role. Dr Hecker's departure from CSIRO was a significant loss to the *HPJA*. He was an excellent mentor of the new editorial team and was extremely supportive of the Journal and its plans to increase its overall quality and impact factor. We wish Dr Hecker well in his new endeavours and look forward to establishing a productive working relationship with Dr Hadley.

Promotion of the Journal

It was anticipated that the new contract with CSIRO publishing would enhance the profile of the Journal and support increased submission of quality papers. Over the last 12 months the submissions have slightly decreased.

The required quality of accepted manuscripts can be lowered by accepting 'lesser papers', but the preferred approach would be to increase the number of high quality submissions, so that quality can be maintained and even increased. The worldwide escalation of health journals has broadened the submission options for authors and therefore increased competition amongst journals for high quality papers. Consequently, the promotion and profiling of *HPJA* is now even more important.



The Editorial team have discussed promotional opportunities with CSIRO and have been active in promoting the journal by:

- Working with the AHPA Board to promote the Journal via the AHPA website and national newsletter.
- Establishing a Journal twitter account – this has resulted in regular tweets of journal articles.
- Planning regular contact with Editorial Board members.
- Presentations to government and non-government workforces on ‘Writing for Publication.’
 - Health Promotion Association Australia Conference, Sydney 2013 – Stacy Carter
 - Health Promotion Unit, Sydney Local Health District, 2013 – Stacy Carter
 - Health Department of WA, Perth 2013 – Jonine Jancey
 - AHPA Professional Development, Perth 2013 – Jonine Jancey
 - Higher Degree by Research Students, Perth 2013 – Jonine Jancey
- Identification of potential submissions to the Journal at conferences and seminars.
 - CSIRO attended 2013 Australian Health Promotion Conference, Sydney
 - CSIRO attended 2013 IUHPE Conference, Thailand
 - Jonine Jancey attended 2013 IUHPE Conference

Honorarium

The AHPA Board agreed to provide a \$7000 honorarium for administration support by newly employed Editorial Assistant, Krysten Blackford. All other work has been supported in-kind by the employing organisations of the Editors-Curtin University and the University of Sydney.

Editors’ Reflections

The Editors are attempting to raise the quality of the submissions to the Journal and believe that an increase in the number of submissions will support this. The Editorial team have implemented a number of strategies to achieve this. These strategies include targeting and commissioning key health promotion professionals to submit manuscripts; regular communication with Editorial Board to maintain awareness of the Journal; use of social media to promote articles and the Journal; development of a strategy to support practitioners to access ethics approval; and presentations to various groups on writing for publication.

The Editorial team will continue to seek opportunities to promote the Journal to support its success. It is reassuring that the *Impact Factor* of the Journal, as reported by CSIRO has risen to *0.800 in 2012*, from 0.592 in 2011, indicating that the overall quality continues to rise. CSIRO has projected a further increase to *0.924* for 2013, which is due to be released in June 2014.



Jonine Jancey
Editor in Chief

1. National Health and Medical Research Council (2014) Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities. Developed jointly by National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Research Council Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee



Editorial Board 2013

Professor Annie Anderson
Division of Cancer Research
University of Dundee

Dr Lisa Barnett
School of Health & Social Development
Deakin University

Professor Margaret Barry
School of Health Sciences
National University of Ireland

Dr Jo Clarkson
Health Promotion
Healthway

Professor Donna Cross
Telethon Kids Institute
University of Western Australia

Professor Rob Donovan
Centre for Behavioural Research in Cancer Control
Curtin University

Professor Larry Green
Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics
University of California San Francisco

Professor Andrew Hills
Centre for Musculoskeletal Research
Griffith University

Cheryl Hutchins
Australian National Preventive Health Agency

Dr Jenni Judd
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Molecular Sciences
James Cook University

Professor Ronald Labonte
Institute of Population Health
University of Ottawa

Professor Albert Lee
Centre for Environment & Population Health
Griffith University

Dr Jo Mitchell
Centre for Epidemiology and Evidence
NSW Government

Professor Kim Raine
School of Public Health
University of Alberta

Professor Chris Rissel
School of Public Health
University of Sydney

Associate Professor Jan Ritchie
School of Public Health and Community Medicine
University of New South Wales

Dagmar Schmitt
Department of Health and Community Services
Northern Territory Government

Associate Professor Louise Signal
Department of Public Health
University of Otago

Professor David Sleet
Unintentional Injury Prevention
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

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Northern Territory Government

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Monash University

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Associate Professor Marilyn Wise
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