

Rehabilitation Research and Publication

This issue again reflects the diversity and quality of rehabilitation research-related activity in Australasia and beyond. I'm pleased to again be involved in the dissemination of these findings.

The research by Professor Ruth Rehfeldt highlights some of the issues faced by those individuals with autism spectrum disorders who are seeking competitive employment. She makes some timely suggestions about how rehabilitation counselors can work effectively with such individuals. The "Gazebo Café Skills Training Program" described by Amanda Brooks, Kobie Boshoff and Esther May considers the effectiveness of a work preparation and skills training centre from a variety of perspectives. The findings are very interesting and make insightful suggestions as to how activity in this area might best move forward. They are also the results of student research, which is encouraging and I would hope that other students reading this issue might take heed and feel motivated to submit their manuscripts. There were numerous examples of top quality student research that I heard at the ASORC Cents and Sensibility conference (in 2001) that I would love to see here in this journal. Elinor Seville, Fiona Alpass and Nancy Pachana report their analysis of knowledge and attitudes about ageing among hearing professionals. They make the important distinction between the two in that a lack of knowledge rather than specific negative attitudes may sometimes impact on the efficacy of treatment choices. The article by Biggs and Dingsdag reports some of the issues and challenges associated with rehabilitation in the construction and coalmining industry in New South Wales. This is a comprehensive and multifaceted review which should be of interest to many of the key stakeholders in these industries. Renée Seebeck and her colleagues detail some of the psychological issues associated with the experience of chronic pain and how these might impact on effective functioning.

It continues to be fascinating for me to be involved with this journal and have the opportunity to review the diverse types of research activity and findings reported herein. The other challenge (which I have alluded to in previous issues) continues to be maintaining the journal's publication momentum.

Increasingly I find that I deal with manuscripts, reviewers and authors online. This is a relatively ad hoc process which I simply manage through my own email system. However, take the Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development (JRRD) as an example of how this process can be made much more efficient. They have contracted a company called ScholarOne to develop for them a web-based peer review system called JRRD Manuscript Central. Take a look at the following address to see what they are aiming to achieve: <http://www.vard.org/jour/jourindx.htm>.

Note that the Guidelines for Authors for this journal (on the inside back cover) have been substantially revised. The aim here is to make the process manuscript review and reporting back to authors more efficient where possible.

I hope 2004 brings the readers of the journal everything they would wish for and I look forward to being able to report more leading-edge rehabilitation research in the *Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counselling*.

Ross Flett PhD, *Editor*