

Editorial

The end of the decade allows us an opportunity to review the progress of our association and to try to anticipate what the future might bring. The past year has consolidated the strong professional network built up by the QGCA and has added an increased element of decentralisation as country areas organise and run their own inservice/professional development programs.

The Australian Guidance and Counselling Association (AGCA) has gained significant credibility as a result of the successful visit by Bill Glasser, and the inaugural AGCA Conference has strengthened the links between States. The conference attracted presenters from New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria as well as the keynote speakers - Jane Close Conoley and Collie Conoley - from the University of Nebraska.

The relationship between the QGCA and the Education Department in Queensland has resulted in major benefits for both parties. Members of the Association have been granted leave to attend seminars and workshops funded partly or totally by the QGCA, and in return, the Department has benefited by the introduction of new programs catering for emerging needs. The QGCA continues to advocate strongly on behalf of the professional needs of its members, to assist in the continuing skills and knowledge development of all interested workers in this field.

The future? Having no aspirations to be a politician, I'm not brave enough to try to predict future developments. However, it may be time to consider the prospect of a truly national guidance and counselling movement. This would mean the amalgamation of State associations, with branches of the AGCA in each State, and possibly specialist areas within each branch (as the Australian Psychological Society has). It would also mean the disappearance of the Queensland Journal of Guidance and Counselling and the emergence of an Australian journal. I would be very interested in reactions to these possibilities - should there be change and are we ready for it?

This edition of the Journal contains a variety of articles covering different populations (Aboriginal students, learning disabled, mainstream students), different settings (primary schools, secondary schools, clinical settings), and different specialisations (assessment, educational programs, self-concept, career counselling and counselling practice). I hope you find some of the articles of interest and of value.

John Carroll