

EDITORIAL

It is easy to be gloomy at a time when youth unemployment is so high, the lives of key public figures are threatened and the media portrays the seamiest and saddest side of life. Perhaps, though, we in Special Education should hold a more positive attitude towards developments in our own professional area.

Extraordinary advances have been made in the last ten years in Australian Special Education. The post-Karmel era saw massive funding for Special Education, particularly in the area of teacher education. This has meant major changes in the professionalism of special educators. We have seen vast numbers of people trained for special education. The provision of services of all kinds has increased. The support areas, for example, resource teachers and itinerant teachers, have blossomed. The scope of special educational services has broadened to include the previously unidentified, for example, the severely learning disabled and the previously un-serviced, for example, the severely and profoundly mentally retarded.

Parent groups have consolidated. I believe many parents of the handicapped no longer feel so submissive and grateful for receiving services. Rather they have become more assertive and confident because of public awareness that parents of handicapped children have a basic right to appropriate education.

In my many trips around Australia and New Zealand, I have seen a similar growth in the professional confidence of Special Educators. With the widespread availability of training programmes, increased staffing, greater public support for Special Education and increases in the number of professional associations concerned with professionals in Special Education, I perceive a much stronger, more confident, more professionally assertive community of Special Educators. This is an extremely satisfying and important development. I hope it is a development which continues to flourish.

JEFF BAILEY
Editor.

PLEASE HELP!

We are sorry for the delay in sending the May journal, but your editor has been hospitalized and has had major surgery.

Our November journal might be a little late.

To help us . . . IF YOU ARE CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE WRITE TO US AND LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS.

Australian Journal of Special Education

Build up your collection of A.J.S.E. to make a full set. We are going to clear all back issues – help us and help yourself. Reduced to \$2 each (including postage).

*Vol. 1 No. 1 – May 1977

*Vol. 1 No. 2 – Nov. 1977

Vol. 2 No. 2 – Nov. 1978

*Vol. 3 No. 1 – May 1979

Vol. 3 No. 2 – Nov. 1979

Vol. 4 No. 1 – May 1980

*Vol. 4 No. 2 – Nov. 1980

*Vol. 5 No. 1 – May 1981

Vol. 5 No. 2 – Nov. 1981

Vol. 6 No. 1 – May 1982

Vol. 6 No. 2 – Nov. 1982

Vol. 7 No. 1 – May 1983

Vol. 7 No. 2 – Nov. 1983

Issues marked * are in very short supply.

Please send your order and cheque (\$2 per copy) to A.J.S.E. P.O. Box 30, Darling Heights, Toowoomba, Q. 4350. Allow approximately three weeks for delivery.

A GOOD IDEA FOR CHAPTERS AND LOCAL GROUPS – If you are having a meeting or Conference, buy some back issues and sell them at \$3 (still cheap) and swell your coffers!