

EDITORIAL

For various reasons, this is a bumper issue. Papers on various aspects of education and development reflect the wide range of interests in the membership of the Board. The AEDP brings together people who, beyond their common link of election to this professional body, have heterogeneous interests and employment. Postgraduate training opportunities, once concentrated mainly in Victoria, are increasing around the country, and may become generally available eventually. However, professional communication, training, and continuing education are still at issue, and will remain so for this Board for some time. In a sense, the AEDP is the primary integrative mechanism for this Board.

Future of the AEDP The Australian Educational and Developmental Psychologist is on the verge of its first decade. It is the only publication with bulletin status in The Australian Psychological Society, brought into being by the vigorous efforts of the then national executive of The Board of Educational and Developmental Psychologists, from the Western Australian Section. The transfer of the editorship to Queensland this year has been accomplished with minimal difficulty.

The status of the bulletin is defended by its referee process. Each manuscript submitted to the editor is sent to two referees. They comment on the academic and professional merits and presentation, and the manuscript is judged as a whole as a significant advance of knowledge and practice in this area of professional psychology. Budding authors are encouraged to submit their work, and they receive feedback to improve their presentation and writing skills, and to assist in further research development. The opportunity to publish is very competitive in the larger established journals of the Society and of psychology generally, and the availability of this bulletin provides an environment in which talent can develop and professional discussion, analysis, and investigation can flourish. Indeed, the UK provides a case study of how the availability of an similar outlet for professional writers in education and development produced a publication oriented climate which developed its own momentum.

Unification of costs and of the professional face of the Society is a basic concern for the publications of the Society. Restriction of publications to the mainstream Australian Psychologist, Australian Journal of Psychology, and The Bulletin of The Australian Psychological Society could ease costs, and there are editorial plans in The Australian Psychologist and The Bulletin and in the APS Publications Committee to provide more service to the professional reading interests of the Society by, for example, providing sub-editor positions to members of each Board. As postal charges increase and Society revenues stabilise with low interest rates, the number of small unit mailings, by Branches, Boards, Sections, etc., become a drain on the Society.

Consequently, there is a real prospect that this bulletin may not survive beyond its tenth year. Other Boards may benefit from formal editorial status in the mainstream journals, but any decision to terminate BEDP's existing publication is

more complex. Other Boards with large memberships such as the clinical psychologists are linked increasingly by their stringent membership criteria and Boards with smaller memberships and highly specialised fields may be accommodated easily within the mainstream journals. However, BEDP members need to consider whether their interests are served by the dissolution of AEDP or whether they need to retain it.

Content of this Issue It is the editor's prerogative, from time to time, to include items of special interest to the membership or items which commemorate special events. In recent years, guest editors have been responsible for issues arising from symposia at the Annual Conference of the APS (i.e., early schooling, neuropsychology in the school). The present issue contains three invited papers arising out of the Seventh Australian Developmental Conference. These papers integrate presentations in three symposia of general interest to developmental psychologists. The papers demonstrate the wide range of ages, topics, and methodologies in use in Australian research, all of which have professional application.

Three papers in this issue concern emotional development, in young children within their families, throughout childhood and adolescence, and in relation to the management of adolescents at risk in the high school. The field of special education is represented by a paper on a topical issue. Adolescent experience of school transition is also reviewed and examined. The variegated types of paper in this issue include a test note, a report on practice in schools, and reviews, as well as the symposia syntheses, as part of a policy of extending coverage as widely as possible to potential professional authors.

Sporting Talent Identification A discussion group at the 1992 APS conference gathered to consider appropriate strategies and relevant issues in talent identification for young Australians gifted in athletic and other sporting domains. Given that some young Australians will receive extra support, it is important that children most able and most suited to benefit from special support receive it. There was considerable interest in the possibility that screening tests might be available to identify talent, or could be developed from current developmental research. However, the skills and knowledge bases of the participants in the discussion were not focussed on developmental literature. There is a need for ideas and analytic papers from within our professional body: Your experience may be relevant, and this is an opportunity for submissions from letters to the editor onwards.



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