

## The year in review

IN APRIL THIS YEAR, an article about SARS kicked off an important change in the way we publish articles of high health importance. The *MJA* now has the facility for “Rapid online publication” (expedited peer review and web publication before print publication), to bypass the delays inherent in the standard print process.

This year we published three issues dedicated to single topics — Women’s Health, General Practice and Chronic Illness. Our supplements covered chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, schizophrenia, the prevention of cardiovascular disease and palliative care. We completed the *MJA Practice Essentials: Rehabilitation Medicine* series, ran a seven-part series on “The new genetics”, and published the first three of an eleven-part *MJA Practice Essentials* series on Endocrinology.

In 2002–03 we received 1395 submissions, with an overall acceptance rate of 57%. 355 of these were research manuscripts,

of which only 18% were accepted for publication, and 422 were letters, of which 57% were accepted. For research manuscripts, the time from submission to acceptance averaged 5 months (including peer review, revision, and several reviews by the Editorial Committee), and to rejection, 1 month. Those who wish to maximise their chances of acceptance are strongly advised to consult our “Advice to authors” (<http://www.mja.com.au/public/information/instruc.html>) before submitting their manuscript.

The Journal is only as good as its peer reviewers — those who have helped us this year are listed below. Our reviewers put in a huge effort, and authors frequently comment how much the *MJA*’s peer review process has improved their manuscript.

We hope you find plenty of enjoyment and good holiday reading in our unique end of year extravaganza.

**Bronwyn Gaut**  
Deputy Editor

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