

From the editors

Ruth M Armstrong and
Martin B Van Der Weyden

WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED reading the 2007 Indigenous Health issue of the Journal. The theme that has emerged this year is one of strong leadership — a leadership that more than ever makes us look optimistically to a future in which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy health parity with other Australians.

While this issue features more Indigenous authors than ever before, we are unable to publish a winning essay from the Dr Ross Ingram Memorial Essay Competition. After 2 years of very high-quality entries, we did not receive enough essays for the competition to run this year. We are disappointed with this outcome, but strongly believe that there are many more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people whose stories and ideas would bring important insights to our readership. We plan to broaden our advertising of the competition this year, and look forward to bringing you a winning essay next year (as well as awarding the prize!).

We would like to acknowledge the many authors, reviewers and advisors who contributed to the issue. In particular, Dr Lisa Jackson Pulver, Director, Muru Marri Indigenous Health Unit, University of New South Wales, for arranging access to the impressive and unique paintings from the Shalom Gamarada art exhibition; Jane Magnus, Senior Policy Officer at the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, for suggesting a cover image and coordinating several of the articles; and Dr Louis Peachey, Senior Lecturer at the Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, James Cook University, for his much-valued guidance, wisdom and advice on many aspects of the Indigenous Health issue.

Indigenous Australia has been widely criticised in the past few years for its lack of leaders. This issue, with its many examples of speaking, writing, teaching and mentoring by Indigenous leaders, suggests this criticism is unfounded.

Ruth M Armstrong, Deputy Editor
Martin B Van Der Weyden, Editor
The Medical Journal of Australia,
Sydney, NSW.
medjaust@ampco.com.au

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