

Editorial

Vol 1, Issue 1

On behalf of the Editorial Board and our Executive Management Committee, I am very excited and honoured to launch the first edition of *Counselling, Psychotherapy, and Health* hosted at www.cphJournal.com.

An enormous ‘congratulations!’ is extended to the Australian Counselling Association (ACA) for their support and encouragement in developing a new international research journal in the fields of counselling, psychotherapy, and health. This endeavour is the first of its kind in Australia. That is, we are the first dedicated counselling research journal to be supported by a professional counselling association in the national context. This journal signifies how ACA is a changing and dynamic association of professionals, who are taking on the challenges that are facing counselling and allied disciplines at this time in our history.

Like most association sponsored journals, our vision maintains editorial independence inspired by the need to create dialogical spaces, where practitioners and researchers can share ideas and concerns. Unlike many existing journals that tend to remain exclusive to members and select others, we endeavour to open up this space for anyone who is interested in the topics and concerns published under cphJournal.com. We intentionally seek to generate interest and dialogue between diverse voices that may include different associations, professions, interest groups, and the public. For this reason, we chose to launch the project in an open access format that utilises the latest technology available on the internet.

The counselling profession, like cphJournal, is a relatively new and emerging field in Australia. We feel that cphJournal represents an evolving need in Australia to support and to encourage awareness of research, as well as to inspire a research culture among counsellors and allied practitioners. There are many benefits from opening up space to dialogue and share ideas. One such outcome is how this project will support education and awareness among practitioners and the public on many issues. Among the many benefits, this approach will also contribute to improving professional standards for training and practicing in counselling and allied fields. We hope that cphJournal will provide one vital link in a new research infrastructure, and that our project will encourage other associations to take our lead, and to build a stronger professional base across the sector.

Introducing Volume 1, Issue 1

Volume 1, Issue 1, showcases the expertise of several board members, who bravely volunteered their time and talents by submitting an article for review. We begin the Issue with Dr Nadine Pelling's article which reports on a research project that profiles the membership of ACA. Her research increases our knowledge of the demographics and characteristics of the counselling profession 'down under', and will likely support many more investigations in these areas in future.

Dr James Essien's esteemed research team discusses the significance of an HIV risk-reduction strategy in the Nigerian Uniformed Services. We are delighted to support an international and interdisciplinary focus at cphJournal.com, both of which are highlighted by Dr Essien's article which reports on significant social and health issues.

Dr Randolph Bowers and team present findings from a qualitative study on homophobia in the everyday lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. The article highlights some of the issues in minority research and practice that cphJournal.com endeavours to support. It is our hope that new research in this area, and in other areas, will be forthcoming. For example, the journal seeks to support research from different minority, ethnic, racial, and special-interest groups, including Aboriginal Australian, New Zealand, and First Nations communities in North America and elsewhere.

Dr Travis Gee presents findings from a study on meta-analysis as a tool in quantitative measures. While his work suggests fairly in-depth knowledge of statistics, and this level of knowledge is beyond many of us, the article is published here to signify the journals' interest in discussing statistical and quantitative issues in counselling research. It is my hope that future articles will include clear and direct instructions for stats-dummies, like myself, in how to interpret and understand statistical analysis as applied to the practice of counselling.

At the date of posting this editorial, Issue 1 is not yet complete. Our standard Issues are rolling, which means we publish articles as they become available. An Issue is closed when the content has reached the maximum level. There are several papers under review currently, and we are experiencing a very positive response from the web site, so we look forward to a steady volume of submissions and publications.

It is our hope that these papers will provide examples of different styles and approaches, and will suggest the diversity of issues that cphJournal.com is interested to support. These papers offer examples of the layout and editorial style of the journal for interested authors, and we hope, will encourage writers to submit materials in future. Our editorial policy is a growing and improving process, and is updated as necessary. Please access and read our guidelines, which can be found under the Author link from our home page.

Bowers, R. (2005), Launching the new international journal *Counselling, Psychotherapy, and Health* – An editorial, *Counselling, Psychotherapy, and Health*, 1(1), i-iii, July 2005.

Board membership

To learn more about the evolution of cphJournal, please visit the About Us link from our home page. We invite interested people to consider Board membership. We are seeking members who are willing and able to take up editorial projects like special editions, leadership roles on our management committee, and of course, the reviewing of papers. Board membership is open to a wide range of people including practitioners, postgraduate student researchers, senior or early career researchers, academics, and people who represent diverse disciplinary endeavours. Membership is by invitation only, but we invite people to nominate themselves and/or other colleagues by sending us a CV along with information about the contributions you feel you or the other person could make.

Invitations for articles and special issues

We always invite new submissions for review. Please check our Author Guidelines by taking the Author link from our homepage.

From time to time, a spark of an idea suggests that we support a special issue. These might be built around a theme, a conference, or some other inspiration like a debate, a controversy, or a political, economic, or ecological concern. For example, during a conference in Canada early in 2005, I invited the conference delegates to publish the proceedings of the conference with cphJournal. Three Associate Editors were appointed from among the Canadian association, and the project is projected for publishing during 2006. Other special issue ideas are welcomed, and our management committee encourages interested parties to develop an idea and present it to the committee.

As our mandate supports multicultural, ethnic, and minority issues we currently invite submissions for two separate issues:

- (1) in the areas of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender concerns,
- (2) in the areas of Aboriginal and First Nations concerns.

We encourage interested parties to come forward with ideas for articles and special editions for the board to consider. We are open to new ideas and to encouraging people to take up leadership on various projects that may arise. cphJournal is like an empty container that relies on the writing of interested people, who will transform the journal into what it is meant to be. Thank you for visiting the pages of cphJournal.com. Please bookmark our homepage and return on a regular basis to pick up the new articles that are published as they become available.

Best wishes,

Dr Randolph Bowers

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