

EDITORIAL

Forty years on: *Drug and Alcohol Review* has flourished as the field has developed

Drug and Alcohol Review got its start 40 years ago, with the issue of Volume 1 of what was then the *Australian Alcohol/Drug Review*, dated 1 January 1982. The Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs (APSA, then the Australian Medical Society on Alcohol and Drug-Related Problems) held its first National Conference in July 1981, and the new journal's first issue of 86 pages was an outlet for papers presented at that conference. The intention of the society's Council was to publish the journal twice a year as a "compilation of original research, editorial and review articles" [1]—still today not a bad description of its contents. Volumes 2–4 had two issues each, reaching a total of 281 pages in volume 4, with growth continuing through to 1010 pages in the seven issues of volume 39 last year. The journal has shifted from its largely Australian focus to fast becoming "Asia-Pacific's leading multidisciplinary journal" in our specialty field. Still, about half of the articles have the first authors from Australasia. Its readership has expanded considerably, in terms of downloads of articles from it—from under 150 000 in 2011 to 450 000 in 2019. *Drug and Alcohol Review* has consistently been ranked among the top 15 journals in its field for impact.

There is much to celebrate on the 40th anniversary of *Drug and Alcohol Review*. In its pages can be traced the emergence and maturation in Australasia of the modern era of research on alcohol and other drug problems,

and the fitful but fruitful dialogues between the worlds of research, clinical practice, advocacy and policy. We honour and thank the contributions over those 40 years of a myriad of hands to the cumulative success of *Drug and Alcohol Review*—the contributions not only of authors but also of past and present editorial board members, scientific reviewers and the staff of the publication process. And we look forward with enthusiasm to developments in the field as initiated and interpreted in the pages of *Drug and Alcohol Review*.

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Reference

- [1] Drew LR. Editorial comment. *Australian Alcohol/Drug Review* (now *Drug and Alcohol Review*) 1982;1:3.