

The *Australian Journal of Primary Health* provides a voice for researchers, and research informed practitioners, interested in the health of the community and the provision of primary health care services. The Journal builds on a long tradition of multi-disciplinary research and practice in primary care, and reflects widely held values that emphasise illness prevention and social inclusion. The priority placed on prevention and social inclusion by the new Commonwealth Government suggests that our readers may be able to look forward to a more optimistic future than many anticipated only a year ago.

This issue of the *Australian Journal of Primary Health* contains a substantial contribution to our knowledge of prevention and social inclusion issues and interventions, often in the same piece of work. Innovative services developed with and for Aboriginal communities is a huge issue from social inclusion and prevention perspectives. Battersby et al. report the evaluation findings from a pilot self-management intervention for Aboriginal people with diabetes, demonstrating that an appropriate self-management program works and is valued by this population group. The early findings from the trial of a mental health intervention—developed in collaboration with remote area Aboriginal mental health workers, using motivational interviewing, problem solving therapy and self-management—shows that appropriate programs are valued by Aboriginal community members (Nagel et al.). Two papers in this issue explore the perspective of non-Aboriginal community groups on important health issues. Lamb and Phelan explore the oral

health practices of Vietnamese-speaking parents in relation to their children's dental health and suggest approaches to prevention appropriate for this community group. Similarly, Xiao Jing Yang et al. examine older Chinese-Australians' understanding of falls and falls prevention that can inform relevant preventive work with them.

Several papers in this issue address important preventive issues in the mainstream provision of primary care. Kralik et al. provide a literature review of medication management issues for older people living in community settings, Sheriff and Chenoweth discuss the use, by health professionals, of a Health Check Log to promote healthy behaviour in the community. Awareness of family violence is expanding in primary care agencies. Walsh reports findings from a study of violence experienced by women during pregnancy and Howard discusses the service-level learning from an initiative to screen for family violence in a community health service.

Finally, the report (Cashin et al.) of a study to prevent chronic illness in one of the most challenging settings of all—prisons—is included in this issue. Although the study's findings are inconclusive, the light it throws on issues to be addressed when undertaking research in a prison environment are important if we are to understand and tackle some of the health issues of this population group.

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