

## EDITORIAL

### A new direction for the College Journal

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2020: the Year of the Midwife, and the year of Covid-19...what a year it has been for midwives in every role and every part of Aotearoa, and throughout the world. In Aotearoa, midwives have shown incredible dedication, innovation and flexibility to continue providing quality care for women and babies throughout the pandemic. Midwifery educators have continued to teach, midwifery researchers have continued to research – everything has needed to be adapted to virtual consultations, virtual teaching and virtual research.

This is the 56th issue of the College Journal and, for 28 years, the Journal has continued to publish original research and other articles, and has been printed and posted to all College members, libraries and other organisations who have subscribed.

In the early 1990s, when the Journal was first published, one of the co-authors (AG) remembers helping Helen Manoharan on her kitchen table to decide on the layout of the Journal. In those days, poems, case studies and, of course, opinion pieces—often written by Joan Donley—were included. Over the years the Journal has become increasingly more academic and professionally presented, to the point where we now publish, almost exclusively, original research.

Until the mid-to-late 2000s, if you wanted to search for any journal article, this meant going to a library, searching through the journal's index for the article, and then searching the shelves to (hopefully) find the journal issue wanted. Standing at the photocopier, copying articles for research and education, was the norm.

Gradually more and more journals have been available electronically, and now many journals are only available online.

Since 2012, a printed copy of the College Journal has been posted to you once a year, with an electronic copy of each paper or article emailed to you as it is published, throughout the year. Papers have also been, and will continue to be, available on the College website.

Having papers online means that they are more readily found and are available to a wider audience, both nationally and internationally. However, this also means when people search online for evidence, there are thousands of articles to sift through, which is why most libraries and researchers use research databases to refine searches. The College Journal has been indexed with CINAHL for many years and, from 2021, will also be indexed with Scopus. This means that any researchers using CINAHL or Scopus will have College Journal papers identified during their searches, making our Journal more visible and accessible.

The Editorial Board and secretariat have been committed to ensuring that the Journal's processes meet the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) requirements and will continue to do so into the future. So, it was great news to hear that the Journal had been accepted by Scopus, whose Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB) noted the following attributes:

- Consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in this field.



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- Has scholarly relevance as evidenced by citations in other journals currently covered by Scopus.
- The abstracts are generally clear and provide an excellent summary of each article's content.
- The articles are consistently of high academic quality, consistent with the journal's stated aims.
- The articles are generally well written and understandable.
- Excellent citation rates (cited by other authors) of the papers in this journal over a period of time. Papers have stood the test of time.

In 2020 we have all learned so much about how we can do things differently, especially as we have access to information and can communicate virtually so readily now. As well as realising how virtual we can be, it has highlighted to us all how we can operate sustainably. Reducing paper and printing is one way of improving our sustainability.

Considering all of these things, the Editorial Board and the College National Board have discussed whether we should continue to print paper copies of the Journal. We consulted with members, libraries and organisations to ask if people would be happy to receive it electronically, or still wanted the paper versions. The majority have said they would be happy with an electronic version. Therefore, after 28 years, we are delighted to present this issue, Issue 56, as our first completely online version of the College Journal—the end of one era, but also an exciting beginning as we move into a new one.

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