

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the *Journal of Population Research*.

This is the inaugural issue of the newly-named *Journal of Population Research*. It continues a sixteen-year history of publication as the *Journal of the Australian Population Association*, which began in 1984. Its debut at the start of the new century, indeed the new millennium, is indicative of the enthusiasm with which this new beginning is launched.

The new title of the *Journal* signifies more than a mere change of name. The new journal is oriented towards population research of global interest and is committed to widening its appeal and readership by addressing issues of international relevance while maintaining its role as the leading forum for Australian demography.

The new journal opens by remembering the past with an obituary for W.D. Borrie. Mick Borrie, as he was known, was the patron of the Australian Population Association from its inception in 1980 until his death earlier this year. Both a scholar and a warm and kindly person, Borrie put demography in Australia on the map. In 1952, he founded the Department of Demography at the Australian National University (ANU); it was among the first such departments in the world. Borrie ably developed the department with the few staff available and began training students to foster the discipline both at home and abroad. He was appointed to the Chair of Demography in 1957. Given the isolation of Australia (the ANU was the only university with a centre of demographic research in the southern hemisphere), he took steps to ensure that staff travelled overseas and personally played a leading role in the international arena. Later in 1980, by which time demographers had become more numerous in Australia, he was a founding member of the Australian Population Association. We can confidently say that without Mick Borrie, demography in Australia would not have developed in the way it has and this inaugural issue of the *Journal of Population Research* would not be in existence today.

This first issue contains five papers covering a wide range of topics and populations. Three papers address the fertility transition. The first of these is a theoretical piece by McDonald on the very low fertility of the developed world. This is complemented by a paper by Kinfu on below-replacement fertility in Addis Ababa and by a re-examination by Rashad of the fertility transition in Arab countries, both of which show that delayed marriage is the main component of fertility decline. The remaining two papers address very different issues. Stillwell *et al.* compare recent net migration and migration effectiveness in Australia and the United Kingdom; this topic will be further developed in Part 2 of the paper, which will appear in November 2000. Finally, Jones *et al.* provide a detailed study of the recent Southeast Asian crisis and its social and demographic impact.

On behalf of the editorial staff and the Editorial Advisory Board, I welcome you to the readership of the *Journal of Population Research* and invite you to both contribute and subscribe to future issues.

Heather Booth  
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