AJGP at 70: A journal shaped by general practice

David Wilkinson

THIS MONTH, the *Australian Journal of General Practice* (*AJGP*) begins a celebration of an important milestone: 70 years of continuous publishing in support of Australian general practice.

Seventy years is a remarkable milestone for any journal. For *AJGP*, it is also an opportunity to reflect on what it has meant to generations of Australian general practitioners (GPs), and why a journal dedicated to general practice remains so important.

Our story began in 1956, when *Annals of General Practice* was first published, even before the Australian College of General Practitioners formally came into being. From the beginning, the journal was intended to connect GPs with one another and with the knowledge, ideas and developments shaping their profession.

Much has changed since those early days. The journal has changed its name, from *Annals of General Practice* to *Australian Family Physician* and, since 2018, *Australian Journal of General Practice*. It has evolved from a small black-and-white publication produced by linotype into a modern scholarly journal with digital content and new ways for readers to access and engage with our work. Along the way, it has embraced research, clinical education, self-assessment, continuing professional development and the changing needs of the profession.

But perhaps the most important thing about 70 years of *AJGP* is not what has changed, but what has remained.

At its heart, this has always been a journal for GPs, shaped by the realities of general practice. Its pages have helped translate research and specialist knowledge into the context in which GPs work every day: where uncertainty, complexity, continuity of care and the individual needs of patients all converge.

For some GPs, *AJGP* has been something read before a busy clinic. For others, it has been part of training, examination preparation or a pathway into research and academic general practice. For many, it has simply been a trusted source of useful knowledge. And collectively, its pages have created a remarkable record of how Australian general practice has evolved.

That history belongs to the many people who have contributed to the journal: editors, authors, reviewers, researchers and, most importantly, our readers. Seven decades of *AJGP* is ultimately seven decades of people contributing to, learning from and strengthening general practice.

Over the coming months, we will celebrate that history – revisiting the people and ideas that have shaped the journal, exploring how medicine and general practice have changed, and hearing from members about the *AJGP* articles that have stayed with them or changed their practice.

And while anniversaries invite us to look back, they also ask us to consider what comes next.

General practice will continue to evolve, and *AJGP* must evolve with it. Our task is to ensure that the journal remains a place where high-quality evidence, clinical experience and the ideas of our profession come together – in ways that are useful to GPs and ultimately benefit the patients and communities we serve. Already we have shifted to commission most of our Focus articles, and we have dramatically increased GP authorship. With a new Journal Advisory Committee now in place, we turn our attention to publishing more, higher quality general practice research.

I am proud to mark this milestone with you, and excited about the next chapter of *AJGP*.

As part of our 70th anniversary celebrations, we invite members to submit a reflection for Beyond the Clinic Door on an *AJGP* article or issue that has shaped their practice, or on the journal's broader influence on their work as a GP, for publication over the coming months.

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