

Editorial

PHD matters!

This is the fourth issue of PHD and it is still growing! To date it has been under the close stewardship of the myself as Editor while working at the South Pacific Commission in New Caledonia. But time and PHD moves on. From the fifth issue (March 1996) onwards the PHD base will be at the Fiji School of Medicine under Drs Jim I. Samisoni and Rex Hunton. All editorial communications and manuscripts are to be directed to these at the address given in the start of this issue. For the next three issues the stewardship will rotate, starting with Dr Rex Hunton on *Non-Communicable Diseases in the Pacific* (March 1996), Dr Greg Dever on *Environmental Health and Infectious Diseases* (September 1996), and to Dr Jim I. Samisoni on *Medical Education and Health Reform* (March 1997). Resource Books Ltd will continue to do the production, subscription and distribution from Auckland, New Zealand.

In the meantime I am working from Alice Springs in the Northern Territory of Australia. As the Editor I continue to oversee the production of PHD production and participate in the editorial process but with less involvement in the stewardship of each issue. In addition to the three themes mentioned above, I have received expressions of interest on funding thematic issues on household food security, hepatitis and health information systems. Depending on funding, the PHD publication schedules may be adjusted.

The theme of 'health information systems' will be most timely, as the issues of data quality and quantity have been lamented in all of the PHD issues published. All the papers in this AIDS/STD issue consistently identify the lack of appropriate data as fundamental to dealing with this health, economic and social problem. From WHO, UNDP, SPC, PIDP through to the countries in the Pacific, the cry for better information and timely data show that the matter is urgent. Sponsorship, articles and contributions on this important and timely theme are being accepted now. I appreciate all articles about health and related issues to the Pacific and Pacific populations everywhere.

This issue of PHD has brought together another series of studies, viewpoints and expertise from various people at different times with unique experiences — this time to examine the sensitive issues of AIDS/STD and sexuality in the Pacific. Like the last issue on Population, Women and Development, the coverage is comprehensive but not all inclusive.

I feel it is timely to recognise the Pacific artist, Valerie Hunton. Her paintings and artistic works have provided the inspiring covers seen on all the issues PHD. Her compositions have given PHD its life and matter!

Lets grow and travel with and through Pacific Health Dialog for that is all that matters.

Sitaleki A. Finau
Editor

