

Editorial

The articles in this edition present both practical and theoretical considerations for the use of music therapy in community settings. Shoemark describes her work with children in a playgroup and how music therapy is applied in “family centred” early intervention. The two other articles are, by contrast, more theoretical. Hadley presents the medical condition of childhood leukaemia, its various developmental challenges for the child and the potential songs may have in meeting the needs of these children. O’Callaghan prompts us to consider the two research paradigms: quantitative and qualitative and provides a clear and comprehensive overview of their features. She does not advocate the use of one method over the other and considers that effective research may result from combining the two.

In the last three editions of *AJMT*, articles discussing the application of music therapy in community-based settings have been published. In the Australian community, it is evident that music therapists are gaining wider recognition. Internationally, our music therapists are gaining increased recognition as well. Many of our music therapists have distinguished themselves through publication in international journals such as the *Journal of Music Therapy* and *Arts in Psychotherapy*; presented keynote addresses at conferences and held prominent positions in the World Federation of Music Therapy. The successes of Australian music therapists may in part be claimed by The Australian Music Therapy Association. Its role has been to support and promote music therapy through conferences, professional development seminars, registration of music therapists and the *AJMT*. As The Australian Music Therapy Association enters a new era under the Presidency of Alison Short, the Association is well placed to continue to influence and assist music therapy in Australia towards the year 2000.

Helen Efron, Co-Editor.

Wendy Taylor, Co-Editor.