



Australian  
Music  
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Association

## Building on innovative perspectives

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Welcome to the 30<sup>th</sup> Volume of AJMT! As we enter a new decade in the history of our journal, I was inspired to look back through the online AJMT archive. Our very first volume, edited by Sandra Curtis, was published in 1990 and featured articles by eminent music therapy researchers, Denise Grocke, Alison Short and Claire O'Callaghan. Since then, AJMT has continued to make rich and diverse contributions to music therapy knowledge, which attract readers from across the globe. This latest Volume builds on our strong history with four innovative articles by Australian and international authors.

New approaches to the way we think about and apply music therapy are always of interest. Arns and Thompson expand our understanding of working within a transdisciplinary specialist school for students with autism. Using a phenomenological approach to analyse semi-structured interviews, they explain how music therapists collaborate with other professions to positively contribute to school communities and culture. This article, while specific to the experiences of RMTs working in the education

sector, is also relevant to health and community settings where multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary structures are commonplace. Fuller and McLeod inspire further innovative thinking in their exploration of music therapy via video conferencing for children with hearing loss and their families living in remote parts of Australia. They provide a detailed account of online delivery from practitioner and participant experiences, and recognise the substantial benefits that this program offered including reduced isolation for families. Again, this article will be of interest to all who aspire to work via online forums across our vast country, regardless of population interest.

Two further articles have a neurological focus. Bower, Sham & Gentle present a case study of an amateur pianist during her rehabilitation following stroke. They draw on the literature to explain neuroplasticity and musical recovery and posit that a neuroprotective role from premorbid musical skills may have facilitated both functional and musical recovery.

In the final article, Williams presents the concept of “Regulative Music Therapy”, a receptive method developed in Germany, as a potential therapy for people with Parkinson’s Disease. He examines an interview with an expert in this field using qualitative content analysis and compares these findings with relevant literature to provide a rationale for using this method in clinical practice and research.

Finally, my sincere thanks to Dr Kate Williams for her continued service as Associate Editor. I would also like to thank Dr Elizabeth McLean for her amazing work as AJMT’s very first Copy Editor from March 2017 to July 2019. We welcome Kate McMahon with her exceptional publishing expertise as our current Copy Editor. Please also note the generous contributions from all of our reviewers in 2019 (see previous page). We hope you will enjoy reading this 30<sup>th</sup> edition of AJMT.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Imogen Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Imogen Clark  
Editor, AJMT

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