
EDITORIAL: *CDI* - MOVING AHEAD

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The *Communicable Diseases Intelligence (CDI)* readership survey (page 39) has both encouraged the *CDI* production team and brought to our attention the need for some changes to our publication. Most encouraging were the number of our readers who use the publication in their work and the many positive comments we received with survey responses. Despite this we found that we could be doing more to meet the needs of our readers. This includes aspects of both the content and the layout of *CDI*.

There have been recent changes in the national and international arenas of communicable diseases which may impact on *CDI*. At the national level the Chief Health Officers of the Commonwealth, States and Territories and the Australian Health Minister's Advisory Council have endorsed a project to develop a National Communicable Diseases Surveillance Strategy. The strategy aims to provide a coordinated approach to communicable disease surveillance and control in Australia. The World Health Organization has recently established the new Division of Emerging, Viral and Bacterial Diseases Surveillance and Control which aims to strengthen the international capacity to deal with communicable diseases. Emerging and re-emerging diseases in particular have become topical. We hope that *CDI* will be able to encompass these developments.

You may have noticed some changes to *CDI* already. Last issue we announced the formation of the *CDI* editorial advisory board which will provide expert advice to the editorial staff. In this issue the layout of the Communicable Diseases Surveillance section has changed. These changes have occurred as part of an ongoing evaluation process of *CDI* and the work of the team which produces it. In addition, *CDI* is now accessible electronically via the Department of Human Services and Health's World Wide Web site on (<http://www.health.gov.au>).

We would appreciate feedback from readers on any changes we make - the only way we can gauge whether we are meeting your needs is for you to tell us. We would also like to encourage readers to provide feedback on the content of *CDI* in the form of correspondence for publication. Selected letters will be published in a new *Correspondence* section.

CDI aims to provide timely information about communicable diseases in Australia to inform and assist those with responsibility for their control in a wide variety of settings. I hope we can improve our capacity to do this and that readers continue to provide us with feedback on how well we are meeting this aim.