
CHANGES AT THE *CDI* DESK

Charles Watson, Chair, CDI Editorial Advisory Board and Ana Herceg, Acting Editor, CDI

After two and a half years, Dr Helen Longbottom has moved on from her position as Editor of *Communicable Diseases Intelligence*. Her dedication and hard work have ensured that *CDI* is a publication of high quality. Just as importantly she leaves behind a committed team to continue the work. Helen's departure gives us occasion to reflect on her accomplishments as Editor and to look forward to further developments.

During the time that Helen was Editor, a number of significant changes were made to *CDI*, including the establishment of the Editorial Advisory Board. The Board has contributed to the development of *CDI*, as has an ongoing review process which included the readership survey conducted last year (see *CDI* 1996;20:39-41).

Perhaps the most important change that occurred under Helen's stewardship was the commencement of a peer review process. In addition a process of soliciting articles and editorials on specific topics was commenced.

New sections of *CDI* have been introduced, including *Correspondence* to allow debate, and an *Outbreaks* section to report on current events. A number of changes have also been made to the layout of the sections. Since November 1995, *CDI* has been accessible through the Internet on the World Wide Web.

Improvements have also been made to the *Communicable Diseases Surveillance* section of *CDI*, both in explaining the significance of the different surveillance systems and highlighting the important trends identified from the data in these systems.

The *CDI* team is committed to further developing our publication, in the process of continuous improvement commenced by Helen in her time as Editor. Our aim is to maintain *CDI* as a valuable national resource for those working in communicable diseases. We would very much appreciate receiving comments from readers on ways to improve the publication. We hope you will continue to use and contribute to *CDI*.