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# Editorial

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## Increasing Debate

One of my goals during my term as Editor of *Behaviour Change*, is to increase the use of the journal as a forum for debate about current issues in our field. On occasion, during its history, there have been issues that have prompted others to respond with diverging views. This seemed to be a healthy situation, providing that the points made were backed up with empirical support, clinical observations, or a sound theoretical or philosophical stance. Over the years, the orientation and focus of those developing and implementing behavioural interventions has changed, with more emphasis of late on the introduction of ideas based on developments in cognitive science. The recent change of name of the Association reflects this trend, although the journal's name still emphasises the focus on behaviour change.

Manuscripts submitted to the journal in recent times have tended to describe the application of therapies, either conducted by the author or by reviewing the work of others, or the gathering of data to assist in the identification of caseness. These are important endeavours and I will continue to encourage their submission and publication. However, what seems to be missing of late, is manuscripts that comment on how we do and use our science. On the rare occasion when these are submitted

and published, it is even rarer to receive any comment that furthers debate.

What I am proposing is to develop a comments section that may provide a stimulus for such debate. Comments may be submitted in one of several ways. If someone has an issue they believe is important for proponents of cognitive-behavioural interventions to discuss, they should submit a brief manuscript of no more than 1000 words. These specific submissions, and others that raise important questions, may then be sent to others with an invitation for comment. A small number of responses may then be available for publication in the same issue of the journal. However, comments will continue to be welcomed from anyone wishing to respond to material published in the journal or to join debates, with these comments appearing in later issues, depending upon space, timing, and other editorial considerations.

I hope this move generates interest and contributes to vigorous debate among us as to how we respond to developments in our science and challenges to the way we apply the results of those developments. I look forward to your input on these and other related matters.

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Alan Ralph  
*James Cook University*