

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like, through pages of the official ABMA journal, to take the opportunity to report on and invite interested people to the forthcoming ABMA National Conference to be held at Melbourne University, June 30th–July 4th. The major themes of this year's conference are Health, Education and Families. There will be three keynote speakers, all with international reputations in their areas of expertise. The first keynote speaker is Professor Ronald Drabman from the Clinical Psychology Residency Program at the University of Mississippi Medical Centre. His areas of special interest are behavioural assessment and treatment of children in the home and in the classroom. The second keynote speaker, Professor John Baer, of the Addictive Behaviours Research Center at the University of Washington, has interests in the early identification of and intervention among young drinkers and relapse prevention in drug rehabilitation programmes. Mark Dadds, Behaviour Research and Therapy Centre, University of Queensland, is the third keynote speaker, whose expertise includes evaluating developmental models of Child Psychopathology and Behavioural Family Therapy.

I would like to extend a general invitation to all readers of *Behaviour Change* to become involved in this annual event. The type of involvement still includes presenting a research, theory or case-study based paper; presenting a paper in the 'early careers' section if you are a recent graduate; and updating your knowledge/practical skills by attending the pre-conference workshops and the formal conference.

Further, I would encourage people to see this conference as more than knowledge sharing, but as an opportunity to begin to make life-long professional contacts with other researchers/practitioners in your area of special interest. To highlight this, the organizing committee is considering allocating a late afternoon time when special interest groups can meet and discuss common themes.

I would like to thank the editor for publishing this letter and end with the hope that I will be welcoming many people from around the nation to Melbourne for the 13th National ABMA Conference.

Mervyn Jackson  
Organizing Secretary