

Third Sector Review - Editors' Journal Report

Third Sector Review continues as the flagship Australasian journal for multidisciplinary research in relation to the “Third” or “Not-for-profit” sector. Since the last AGM, the Review has published a special issue on microfinance (2018, 24(2)), has a special issue on giving at the copysetting stage for issue 2019, 25(1) and has a strong series of papers from the 2018 conference being edited for issue 2019, 25(2).

The editorship of Third Sector Review has also been passed on from Carolyn Cordery and Karen Smith to David Gilchrist, Ian Murray and Fiona McGaughey at UWA – and we thank Carolyn and Karen for the significant work that they have put into the Review.

Renewal Plan

In addition to the day-to-day work on preparing the various issues of the journal, the new editorial team is implementing a longer term renewal plan that aims to build on Third Sector Review's history and position by enhancing the excellence of the research it discusses and broadening its readership and impact.

One element of the plan is to enhance institutional support frameworks for the Review. To this end, the new editorial team are located within the [Not-for-profits UWA Research Group](#) and that Research Group provides support to the editorial team, including by assisting with industry collaboration and organising an editorial intern. The Research Group's focus on interdisciplinary research, collaboration and engagement with the Not-for-profit sector is also intended to increase the promotional/community engagement support for the journal so as to contribute further to academia and industry. In particular, we are working toward enhancing the journal's social media presence and applying for inclusion by Scopus and Clarivate.

A second element is to gather input from stakeholders regarding the Third Sector Review. The views of Board members and Editorial Advisory Board members have been solicited at meetings or in personal communications. However, we are currently also working on a short survey about the journal that will be provided in the second half of the year to ANZTSR members and others who have published in, or refereed pieces for, the journal.

Thirdly, we plan to more actively target contributions from leading Australasian and international researchers and leading industry figures. Several ways in which this will occur are to ask for contributions from members of the Editorial Advisory Board (see below – we have sought to make this an explicit moral commitment of Editorial Advisory Board members) and leading industry figures – which may come about by way of invitation to deliver a keynote presentation (for instance, the current Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission has a ‘paper from the field’ accepted for inclusion in issue 25(2) for 2019) or otherwise. A renewed focus on soliciting papers from the field supports this approach and aims to garner submissions on contemporary issues for the NFP

sector. To enable this focus on excellent contributions while also maintaining the Review's historic support-and-development approach to authors, particularly more junior academics, we will launch a new short paper section as part of issue 2020, 26(1). This short paper section will feature a limited number of papers and will be less demanding than the traditional academic article section.

Following discussion at several Board meetings and informed by earlier work undertaken by Carolyn Cordery and Karen Smith, a fourth action involves refreshing the Editorial Advisory Board. Our approach has been to retain existing Board members who have not retired and who remain active in third sector research. For potential new Board members, we have tried to achieve a geographic spread across Australia and New Zealand and also more broadly internationally. We have also sought to achieve coverage across disciplines and to include both academics and esteemed practitioners. We have tried to ensure that the list contains eminent people who will add to the calibre of the journal. To focus Board members on actively contributing to the journal, board member duties have been explicitly set out as follows:

Editorial board duties essentially involve acting as ambassadors for the journal, reviewing articles from time to time and providing strategic advice to the editors. We do also ask that you submit a paper every three years.

Currently invited and accepted international editorial board members comprise:

- Professor Lester Salamon, Johns Hopkins University (US)
- Professor Oonagh Breen, University College Dublin (Ireland)
- Professor Mark Sidel, University of Wisconsin-Madison (US)
- Professor Carolyn Cordery, Aston University (UK)

While incomplete (as the renewal process is still underway) current Australasian board members include:

- Professor Matthew Harding, Melbourne Law School
- Professor Karen Smith, Victoria University of Wellington
- Associate Professor Ruth Phillips, Sydney University
- Professor Melanie Oppenheimer, Flinders University
- Professor Jenny Onyx, University of Technology Sydney
- Industry Fellow, Krystian Seibert, Centre for Social Impact, Swinburne University
- Emeritus Professor Myles McGregor-Lowndes, Queensland University of Technology
- Susan Pascoe AM, President of the Australian Council for International Development (and former Commissioner of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission)

A fifth element is to lift the perceived "ranking" of Third Sector Review. ERA rankings no longer exist, but the Review is ranked B in the Australian Business Deans' Council (**ABDC**)

journal list. It is not included in the two main global journal indices – Scopus and Clarivate. In 2019 the ABDC is reviewing its journal rankings. The journal editors collaborated in a joint submission with the editors of all the other main Not-for-profit journals regularly accessed by Australasian researchers. That joint submission requested that the Review be retained at least at the B level that it currently holds. In addition, ANZTSR and the Review editors made a further submission providing additional reasons as to why the Review should have its ranking increased to A. In the longer term though, it is likely to be the journal's inclusion in the Clarivate and Scopus databases that enables Third Sector Review to achieve a higher ranking and the editors are working towards this end.

Lastly, a strong journal requires a strong supporting organisation and so part of our social media plan for Third Sector Review and of targeting greater industry contributions, involves encouraging more memberships of ANZTSR. We also anticipate that the Editorial Advisory Board renewal should directly lead to several new members.

In order to meet the objectives outlined above, the editors are considering how best to manage the editorial and publication process and will explore the option of using an academic publisher such as Taylor & Francis or Sage. Implications of this, and progress made, will be reported to the Board though this direction will also assist us to improve the ranking of the journal.

Day-to-day Activities

Returning to the editorial day-to-day activities, over the last year:

1. The Third Sector Review portion of the Website has been updated to emphasise several of the matters raised in the ABDC submission. In particular, the global themes that the Review routinely tackles, especially through themed issues; the Review's desire to tackle global issues – where they are of relevance to Australasia; and the Review's 25 year history. The website has also been updated to reflect the change of editors and to incorporate the most recent issues of the journal.
2. Issue 2019, 25(1): This is the QUT *Giving Australia* Special Issue. It includes four manuscripts with a *Giving Australia* focus. Two additional *Giving Australia* manuscripts were delayed and will be published in a later issue. Issue 1, therefore, also includes one additional article, a book review and a paper from the field. Delays in receipt of finalised manuscripts and availability of copysetting assistance mean the issue is likely to be published in August, rather than June as originally intended.
3. Issue 2019, 25(2) has proved very popular, with around 15 conference and related papers received already, such that new papers are now likely to be held back for issue 2020, 26(1). Around 5 papers have been conditionally accepted so far and are at various stages of editing. The issue is shaping well, with a good mix of research

perspectives and paper types, including articles, papers from the field and book reviews.

Once again, thank you to Carolyn and Karen and to the ANZTSR board for its support.

Ian Murray, David Gilchrist and Fiona McGaughey

Co-editors Third Sector Review

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