Preface

Since I became Managing Editor of the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics* (AJLE) late last year, I have flagged that there will be a number of editorial changes for the journal. We should have a book review section in the not too distant future under the capable stewardship of Mark Cully. Another initiative is that the AJLE abstracts have been all lodged with RePEc (Research Papers in Economics) in order to enhance the dissemination of our research. We are also in the process of facilitating the use of our articles by one of the world’s largest online content aggregators (i.e. EBSCO) to enhance the use of AJLE research within the all important US market. Ensuring that contributors’ research is widely cited is of core importance to the journal. The ARC’s Excellence in Research Australia (ERA) initiative means that such issues are going to be increasingly important for academic careers.

Another initiative is designed to facilitate the timely publication of our research – we will consolidate papers into a somewhat larger issue that will only be published three times a year. Consequently, this is the third and final issue of the journal for 2009. It is our intention that all future issues are published within a reasonable period of the expected date. For example, the last issue for each volume should appear before the end of the year in which it is officially published. It might not always be possible to live up to this aspiration all of the time, but it is our intention that the articles are available in a timely fashion for the omnipotent annual reports required by many funding bodies.

This issue of the journal contains a diverse set of articles that canvass a range of issues: the relationship between welfare and savings, regional employment trends and forecasts for Indigenous Australians, gender wage gaps in New Zealand, mental health and employment among nurses and last, but not least, fiscal policy in an oligopsonistic labour market.

Finally I will take this opportunity to encourage readers to engage in ongoing debate in the AJLE. If you disagree with propositions made in any articles published in the journal, I would encourage you to submit a rebuttal based on well-constructed argument and robust evidence. After a suitable process of peer review we would be more than happy to publish such papers.

*Boyd Hunter*

Managing Editor