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Snowdon, Wendy 2012, Guest editorial, *Fiji journal of public health*, vol. 1, no. 2, pp. 2-2.

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## **GUEST EDITORIAL Dr. Wendy Snowdon**

The theme of this second issue of FJPH is evidence-informed health practice. Evidence-based or evidence-informed medicine has been well established globally as the cornerstone of good practice. For practitioners however, it can be difficult sometimes to identify what is the right evidence to use and whether it's valid or relevant. This is a common issue everywhere and it has partly led to position statements and similar from national and global organisations on issues such as care of hypertension, treatment of TB and recommendations to implement controls on junk food marketing to children.

However evidence is not just that from randomised controlled trials (RCTs) but also from local sources such as clinic records and death registers. With some targeted analysis these routine health records can be excellent sources of information which can guide policy-making and intervention development here in Fiji. This issue includes a paper on malnutrition in Tavua, based on existing records which highlight issues of concern. Similarly the study from Rakiraki on suicides highlights where efforts may need to be targeted in regard to prevention. The lead article on benchmarking shows another role for this type of data, in undertaking comparisons with other countries, which can flag up areas of inequity. While routinely collected data undoubtedly has limitations, it can help to inform health practice within Fiji.

Another critical area of importance for data and evidence is in monitoring the implementation of policies, systems and processes – which can then be used to modify or update existing approaches, or can trigger the development of new systems. The articles on waiting times and baby-friendly hospital implementation demonstrate this well.

Overall, evidence can take many different forms, and to inform health practice local evidence is an important addition to the global literature. This new journal provides an important avenue to disseminate evidence within Fiji, and I am sure that articles in it will be widely used.