

## **Editorial**

In this edition, we have again attempted to present a diverse range of research papers, reflecting the nature of our discipline in the Australasian context. Of note, several papers provide observations on aspects of the dramatic and ongoing effects of the Covid 19 pandemic and its impact on regional communities and economies. Understandably, regional health service provision emerges as critical in such responses. Several papers here consider aspects of this challenge.

Given the Australasian profile of the journal, we are pleased to present a wide investigation by Saunders et al. regarding the geographic parameters of a small, advanced economy – namely New Zealand. It makes the important observation that New Zealand’s geographic remoteness should not necessarily be seen as a key characteristic describing overall performance. Instead, innovative mission-oriented, research programs should be considered in providing an important strategic approach.

Bernard Trendle’s paper has a strong methodological focus. He sets out to identify spatial regimes in the relationship between commuting outflows from Newcastle, drawing on a global spatial interaction model to explore the determinants of commuting flows.

A paper by Abbot considers the health care and social assistance workforce, using Gippsland, Victoria as a case study. It draws on statistical evidence and government forecasts, noting particularly demographic characteristics and projections, both of that workforce and of the community it serves.

Continuing with the Covid 19 response theme, Williamson et al. fuse together likely post-covid business environments and the future evolution of the entrepreneurial ecosystem and development of social capital given those scenarios.

Also related to regional health service delivery, the paper by Caffery et al. considers how social enterprise may help bridge the gaps in health provision that are common to many Australian rural regions and communities. It follows a case study approach based on Emerald in central Queensland and focuses on the possible community-owned, not-for-profit social enterprises. The work may well have relevance and application to other comparable regions.

The final paper by Sturgeon and Mangioni investigates a wider issue - that being the impact of the acquisition of land for public purposes across all regions. Commonwealth and State legislation and litigation provide a structure and process to address the financial compensation payable in such statutory matters. However, it is clear that the impact on dispossessed owners – particularly owner-occupiers - may well be wider than simple monetary compensation, even if (as in some cases) a solatium is incorporated in compensation.

This is an ongoing challenge in convincing disposed owners and the wider community that such compensation is indeed fair and reasonable and gives the benefit of the doubt to private owners adversely affected.

Emeritus Professor Mike Hefferan  
Professor Bruce Wilson  
August 2021