Editorial

This third edition of the IPJ is published close to the centenary of our two services’ founding legislation, the Probation of Offenders Act 1907. While much in society has changed over the last one hundred years, the reasons for having probation services have not and the pioneering spirit that contributed to the establishment of probation as a way of dealing with offenders in the community has not diminished in any way. This perspective was reflected in statements made in connection with the launch of the Probation Service (formerly the Probation and Welfare Service) earlier this year.

The range and depth of subjects covered in the present issue are evidence of the endurance of this pioneering probation spirit. And even though probation has come under an increasingly critical focus over the past year, the quality of contributions to this edition demonstrates the robust and evolutionary nature of the services we and our partner agencies provide.

The subjects covered in this edition include women offenders, policy development, cultural diversity, sex offenders, restorative justice, self-harm and the principles of effective probation practice. The articles on women offenders are particularly noteworthy as this area of study has been somewhat neglected in recent times.

It has always been the hope of the Editorial Committee that the IPJ would encourage and facilitate debate. Such debate is to the fore in Colm Power’s response to the article by Sam Lewis, David Lobley, Peter Raynor and David Smith in the 2005 edition of IPJ. In the interests of fairness, we have afforded the authors of the original article a right of reply.

We thank all those who contributed to this edition. The Editorial Committee of IPJ, as well as the managements of the two services, is also delighted to welcome the input of the Institute of Public Administration (IPA). The IPA brings a wealth of valuable expertise and experience to
the publication of the journal and we look forward to developing this working relationship. Finally, we renew our call to you, the journal’s readers, to continue to submit articles for future editions. In the context of next year’s centenary of probation, we would particularly encourage contributions that reflect the richness and diversity of practice in probation and other justice disciplines.

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