First published in August 1986, Australian Educational Computing is the national publication of the Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE). The ACCE was established as a national body to co-ordinate the work of state computer education groups and, having formalised a constitution late last year, it has set about improving the lines of communication between state organisations. In some states it has served as a catalyst for the formal establishment of state bodies, while nationally the ACCE has been responsible for the very successful national conferences now in their fifth year.

This journal provides a vehicle for the publication of articles for which a national audience is appropriate. These fall into a number of categories.

There are articles relating to research in the educational computing field which are likely to be of interest to a wide cross-section of teachers. These may come as follow-up papers from keynote speakers at national conferences, or might be the results of local or overseas research. In addition, there are a number of educators exploring new ideas about the use of computers in the classroom who are writing articles of national interest.

The initial often non-critical acceptance of the technology is fading fast, and increasingly research findings and feedback from classroom experiences are resulting in articles which examine the problems as well as the benefits arising from the use of computers in education. Not only should this be encouraged by all in the profession, but we should actively seek the widest possible discussion of such issues. It will only be through full and wide ranging debate that we can be sure that the objectives we have set are being achieved.

Such articles as these serve to complement the excellent range of topics being aired by the various state journals, which are seen by teachers as a means of sharing their experiences in the classroom. These journals have been the focus of educational computing in several states for many years, and the existence of a national journal will extend the range of articles available to members of those state organisations.

With the reduction of funding at the national level severely cutting back support services, it is important that teachers work through their various state computer groups, and in turn through the national organisation, to take the initiative in promoting the effective use of computers in schools.

As a lobby group the ACCE will be able to speak for members throughout Australia and, as the journal of that group, Australian Educational Computing must also take an active part.