

LETTERS



The Editorial Executive Committee welcomes letters, which should be less than 250 words. Before a decision to publish is made, letters which refer to a published article may be sent to the author for a response. Any letter may be sent to an expert for comment. When letters are published, they are usually accompanied in the same issue by any responses or comments. The Committee screens out discourteous, inaccurate or libellous statements. The letters are sub-edited before publication. Authors are required to declare any conflicts of interest. The Committee's decision on publication is final.

Letter to the Editor

Bruce Shepherd Medal for independent medicine

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I would like to congratulate the Editor, Dr John S Dowden, on the award of the Bruce Shepherd Medal by the Australian Doctors Federation. He is one of 19 recipients who received the 2019 medal, which is awarded to those who have made an outstanding

contribution to independent medicine. The Australian Doctors Federation is dedicated to protecting independent professional practice and recognises that independence is also crucial when providing information about medicines. For many years Dr Dowden has maintained the independence of *Australian Prescriber* from external influences and this has enabled the journal to evolve into a trusted source of information for Australian health professionals.

Dr Aniello Iannuzzi
Chairman, Australian Doctors Federation, Sydney