
EDITORIAL

WRITING AN ABSTRACT

Every paper written for the *Australian Orthoptic Journal* is to have an abstract following the title page.

Although limited to 150 words, the abstract should be a complete miniature paper, giving a precise, informative statement of studies performed, the findings, and principal conclusions. It should be understandable without the necessity to consult the paper, and should contain no jargon or unexplained abbreviations.

Statements such as "examination techniques are described", "results are analysed", or "treatment is discussed" are inappropriate as they contain no facts.

The abstract is the flag-bearer for the author. For many readers a good abstract persuades them to proceed and read the paper (and vice versa). It should be appropriate for use by abstracting services whereby the author's findings and views are given wide international cover.

Abstracts tend to be poorly written in comparison with the main bodies of papers, but as they will be read by far greater numbers they should be even more carefully prepared.

The above is printed with acknowledgements to Dr Ronald Lowe and the Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists.