

channels must be established for the users to be able to express themselves. The report is commendable in many ways, but the effects of full implementation in some areas are unclear. The decision to reduce allowable budgets for advertising tobacco products to 5% per year will have implications for the government's fiscal policy on taxation. This in the past has served to divert successive governments away from excessive curtailment of tobacco advertising.

In the final analysis the real challenges will be firstly, the provision of financial resources; secondly, ensuring that changes do occur; and lastly, that there is a clear and intelligible response and commitment from healthcare

workers. The potential impact of the new health strategy was well described by the Irish Times (22 April 1994) the day after the launch of the report.

If the plan is implemented in its entirety the average citizen will in four years time be drinking less, exercising more, not smoking at all, be registered with a GP who may very well be part of a group practice, and will be treated as if the service existed for the benefit of the citizen. And if he or she is not treated like that, there will be effective ways of complaining about it.

(It is intended that a follow up

report be written in three years to review progress).

- 1 Department of Health. *Shaping a healthier future: a strategy for effective healthcare in the 1990s*. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1994.
- 2 Department of Health. *Health statistics*. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1992.
- 3 Department of Health. *Health, the wider dimensions: a consultative statement on health policy*. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1986.
- 4 Report of the Review Group on Mental Handicap Services. *Needs and abilities: a policy for the intellectually disabled*. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1990.
- 5 Report of the Commission on Health Funding. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1989.
- 6 An Bord Altranais. *The future of nurse education and training in Ireland*. Dublin: An Bord Altranais, 1994.
- 7 World Health Organisation. *Target for health for all by the year 2000*. Copenhagen: WHO, 1985.

#### Correction

An error occurred in the figure of the effectiveness bulletin *Managing menorrhagia* by Angela Coulter *et al* (September 1995 p 226). The top heading should read % Menstrual blood decrease, and the two extreme left values should be -20 and -10.