



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

from meeting of 23 March 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since I last wrote to you in February, the world seems to have gone crazy and, of course, Palliative Care ACT is not immune to the effects COVID19. The bulk of our meeting this month focused on COVID19 and what we are doing to ensure that our business operates in a safe environment.

We have reviewed our business continuity plan, identifying risks, the risk level, and the mitigation strategies. We have communicated with all key stakeholders ie our volunteers, our staff, Clare Holland House, Residential Aged Care Facilities, the Canberra Hospital and a number of our sponsors.

We have put in place the practices necessary when meeting face to face and we are communicating online where this is practicable. The need to follow the recommended practices of the Health Departments (State and Federal) and the cautionary practices set out by Government will exist well into the future. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of our team on preparing for our response to the pandemic.

FUNDRAISING

As most of you will be aware, we receive around 70% of our funding from government, with the remaining 30% made up through fundraising activities. The virus will inevitably have an impact on our fundraising abilities and therefore an impact on how we will go forward. We are currently into scenario planning in terms of budget impact if we cannot fund raise for the next 3, 6, 9 and 12 months. I believe that the organisation is well positioned financially to weather this storm but there is no doubt the impact will be considerable.

At the present time, we have had to postpone two movies ie the Bond movie No Time To Die, and the Helen Reddy movie I Am Woman, but it is our intention to run with these as soon as the crisis is over. Similarly, our fundraising from the Canberra Times Marathon will be put into abeyance until August (or possibly later depending on how the virus is tracking). Given that many of our donations for the fundraising dinner come from small business, we have a watching brief on our annual dinner.

Please be assured that the staff and the Board are doing everything possible to mitigate the impact that COVID19 will have on our organisation.

MEETING WITH LIONS, BELCONNEN

I have a very successful meeting with the Lions Club in Belconnen. The Club has expressed keen interest in The Hub and has offered its support when the facility is up and running.

● **NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK**

The face-to-face events for NPCW have been cancelled. As a consequence, the Employee Toolkit ie the document for employees diagnosed with a life-limiting illness is likely to have a 'soft' launch.

● **LIFE STORY PROGRAM**

Following the publicity given to the cessation of Suncorp as the sponsor of the Life Story Program, we were contacted by a number of organisations both large and small who wanted to offer to support the program going forward. This is wonderful news and we are most grateful to them all and will keep you posted of how these progresses.

● **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Palliative Care ACT will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday, 20 April 2020 at the Tom Elvin Centre.

Warmest regards

Louise Mayo
President

