



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

# ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

## from meeting of 18 January 2021

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

I trust you all had a great Christmas break and are looking forward to a fantastic year in 2021. Last year had many challenges but I feel that at Palliative Care ACT we rose to those challenges with initiatives such as **Isolation Relief**, where we used technology to connect clients with loved ones; the **PalCare call out service**, to ensure that no one who was actively dying, died alone; our **tele-help service** which offered information and support on advanced care planning, grief and bereavement from 8.00 am – 8.00 pm; and our **Moments in time** program, which captured a moment from someone's life.

I am aware that many volunteers were unable to attend shifts in Clare Holland House and residential aged care centres, due to COVID restrictions and that, even today, there are limitations at these venues. Our staff and volunteers have all risen to the challenges of 2020 and I thank you for your flexibility and willingness to step back or step forward as our needs have dictated.

### THE HUB

I think our greatest achievement in 2020 though was bringing The Hub to a reality. In the November summary of outcomes, I spoke about the fit out of The Hub and I am now very proud to tell you that at the Palliative Care dinner on 4 December the Hub officially became known as Leo's Place, in honour of Leo Sutton who, along with his wife and our Patron, Shirley, established palliative care in the ACT.

I am now also very pleased to tell you that Palliative Care ACT has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with Carers' ACT, an organisation that will provide care staff on a 24 x 7 basis for a trial period while we assess how well Leo's Place is servicing community needs. We are looking forward to welcoming some of our current volunteers to Leo's Place, but also adding some different volunteering groups to the mix.

### ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

In September I mentioned that Dave Burnet had come on board to support us in a multiplicity of ways. He has secured a number of grants (\$15,000 from the John James Foundation, \$9,600 from Hands Across Canberra and \$10,000 from the Green Shed), developed the volunteer information portal and established the client management system. In addition, he was actively involved in setting up Leo's Place and assisted with the dinner and the wine club. I am pleased to advise that the Board has extended Mr Burnet's contract for a further 12 months and we are delighted to have him on board.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

It is now time for us to develop a new Strategic Plan. In reviewing our 2017-2020 Strategic Plan, we have achieved the majority of the goals we set ourselves and it is time to position ourselves for the future. To that end, work is now in hand to develop the 2021-2024 Plan. Initial meetings will take place in February, followed by a meeting of Board and staff members on 12 March to work through the challenges for the future.



## **MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS INTERNSHIP**

The Board has agreed to pursue discussions with the University of Canberra with a view to securing a media and communications intern to assist with promoting the work of PC ACT. We are always looking at avenues to raise funding and increase community awareness and we feel this is an excellent development opportunity for a young person. Stay tuned for more information.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Board of Palliative Care ACT will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 22 February 2021 at the Tom Elvin Centre.

Louise Mayo AM  
President

