



PalliativeCare
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

from meeting of 20 September 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

EXTENDED LOCKDOWN IMPACTS

Given the extension to the lockdown, an early Board Meeting was convened to discuss how our organisation should proceed regarding upcoming fundraising events and to assess the impact on the organisation more broadly.

Our annual fundraising dinner, scheduled for 9 October with over 400 people attending, will not proceed. This is the second year we have been unable to hold this major fundraising event, which in 2019 raised approximately \$100,000. With the majority of tickets already sold and the uncertainty of ongoing restrictions, the Board discussed a number of options including:

- cancelling this year's event completely
- splitting the event into two smaller events before Christmas, or
- transferring the dinner to March 2022.

After a discussion on the pros and cons, the Board agreed to defer the event to 19 March 2022. We have received an overwhelmingly positive response from ticketholders who are keen to attend next Autumn. Our other popular fundraiser, which has been rescheduled four times since the pandemic began, is our movie night. The new James Bond movie, No Time To Die, is now set for release on Thursday 11 November 2021 and, given the planned path out of restrictions, we are hopeful this may go ahead.

The Board also spent time discussing the impact cancelled fundraising activities over the last two calendar years has had on our much need discretionary funding. While the Commonwealth is providing financial support to employees who have had their work hours reduced, the Board made the decision to reduce staff hours where the lockdown has impacted on our operations.

ANNUAL AUDIT

Bellchambers Barrett commenced its annual audit on Monday 27 September. As a result of the lockdown this is being done virtually for the first time. Our Finance Officer has done an excellent job in preparation, allowing for an efficient audit.

OCEANIC PALLIATIVE CARE CONFERENCE

The CEO and I virtually attended the 2021 Oceanic Palliative Care Conference this month, where I gave a presentation on Leo's Place. Presentations were a good mix of clinical and non-clinical. Of special interest were two Canadian guest speakers, one of whom provided an insight into offering palliative care to underserved populations with the other discussing the Waiting Room Revolution – a podcast offering insights to empowering people with insights into the end of life. As it



LEO'S PLACE

was a virtual conference, the sessions were recorded and are available until September 2022 through Palliative Care Australia.

I am pleased to report that Leo's Place, our non-clinical home away from home providing respite, was deemed an essential service by the ACT Government.

Families looking after loved ones at home during lockdown, are finding their broader support networks restricted, so this service is even more critical at this time.

EFFICIENCY REVIEW

Last month I reported our intention to conduct an efficiency review. Preliminary planning begins on 30 September with some initial online analysis commencing during lockdown.

The next meeting of the Board of Palliative Care ACT will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 25 October 2021.

NEXT MEETING

Louise Mayo AM
President

