



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

# ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

## from meeting of 28 November 2023

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### REFLECTIONS ON 2022

As we gallop towards the end of 2022, I would like to reflect on what has been another very busy year for Palliative Care ACT.

On the staffing side, we lost our General Manager, Julie Elliott, who has now moved to the Southern NSW Primary Health Network. Julie was involved in many facets of the organisation, including the significant changes to the way we delivered services during COVID 19 as well as playing an important role in the establishment of Leo's Place.

We also said goodbye to Ruth Kinleyside, a volunteer co-ordinator, and to Isaac Frawley, our very willing administrative assistant. We thank them for their contribution and wish them all well in their new endeavours.

We have seen Leo's Place go from strength to strength during the year and the ACT Government's allocation of \$2.4m over four years will enable us to continue this much valued respite service. We are working hard on identifying a long-term home for the respite centre and I hope to be able to announce progress on this next year.

We held a wonderful fundraising dinner in June bringing in over \$180,000 – the best result yet. Already, plans are under way for another dinner in April next year.

I have been immensely thankful for the wonderful support provided by our CEO, Tracy Gillard, and the staff of Palliative Care, who deliver a first-class compassionate service. I would also like to place on record sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board, who put in countless hours of their time to ensure that Palliative Care ACT continues to deliver in a professional, financially responsible way.

#### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Much of our November Board Meeting revolved around our new role and how to meet our obligations under the new Deed of Grant with ACT Government, which has expanded our remit to include a peak body role, advocacy, policy and research, all within the same financial package.

Improved technology usage and active fundraising are key to us delivering in the new environment. To this end, we welcome Savneeth Gallopally who is reviewing our Better Impact system and Marsia Ermcore who has joined us as Community Engagement Manager.

We have a planning day pencilled in for early February and this will allow us formulate strategies and workplans for delivering on the Volunteer Programs, meeting our peak body responsibilities, and planning for long-term growth.



## CONFERENCES

Our CEO attended the Palliative Care NSW biennial conference where more than 300 delegates explored sessions that included the impact of the pandemic on the sector, enabling better care through integrated palliative care, better use of technology, patient-driven care, grief and bereavement.

She then attended the Member Organisations Meeting with its theme 'Quality of Life' where over 200 delegates addressed issues such as nutrition, communities of care, volunteers, paediatric palliative care and inclusive palliative care.

Finally, both the CEO and Mr Aleksandric attended Palliative Care Australia's Member Organisation conference in Hobart where topics included palliative care workforce needs, collective advocacy and attracting Aged Care membership. Discussion also took place on Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) and it was felt that there would be value in PC ACT talking to other Member Organisations about how they dealt with VAD. Further discussion occurred on Aged Care, and it was felt that PC ACT provided a good model on how to assist palliative patients residing in aged care.

## CHRISTMAS WISHES

Our final social event for the year is the Volunteers' Christmas Party, to be held from 5.00-7.30 pm on Thursday 8 December at the Tom Elvin Centre. All volunteers are welcome, so please come along and meet some of our long-term supporters and some of the new folk who have joined us this year.

This is the last Board Meeting for 2022 and the Board is taking a two-month break, resuming in February 2023. Of course, palliative care services will continue to be delivered right through the holiday season. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to our sponsors, supporters, staff and volunteers for their unflagging efforts during the year and look forward to working with you next year. If you are travelling, please travel safely and may 2023 be a good year for all.

Dr. Louise Mayo AM  
President

