



**PalliativeCare**  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

# ACT BOARD OUTCOMES

## from meeting of 4 December 2023

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

As per the rules of the new Constitution to fill any vacant positions at the first meeting after the AGM, we re-appointed Con Sfyris to the position of Deputy Chair. Con has made a very valuable contribution over several years and we welcome him back as Deputy Chair for his final term of office. We also confirmed the annual membership fees for the period 1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025. They remain the same as the current year ie \$10.00 for volunteers, \$40.00 for ordinary members and \$400 for organisational membership.

#### CLINICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

We approved the Terms of Reference for the Clinical Advisory Committee, a body which will provide clinical/professional input to the peak body functions of PC ACT and provide guidance and assistance in developing policy advice to government. It has an advisory role only, it is not a decision-making body. The Committee comprises a cross section of people including a nurse practitioner, a palliative care manager, a social worker and a palliative care doctor.

#### BUILDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE


We also approved the Terms of Reference for the Leo's Place Build. This too is an advisory, not a decision-making body, and is responsible, amongst other things, for providing strategic leadership in the development of Leo's Place, in liaising with internal stakeholders to ensure the build remains fit for purpose and to monitor budget and expenditure. The Committee includes two Board members, and people with expertise in project management.

#### A REFLECTION ON 2023

As we gallop towards Christmas, it is timely to reflect on our achievements this year. We have progressed negotiations with the John James Foundation for the Leo's Place new build in Garran. Those of you who attended the Annual General Meeting would have had the opportunity to see a schematic drawing of the proposed building together with some visual perspectives and the planned layout. It will be a wonderful building when finished but we still have a considerable way to go to fully realise the dream.

We held a very successful dinner in April with around 500 people attending a gala night which raised almost \$180,000. In June we held our now famous movie night where approximately 100 people saw Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny.

During National Palliative Care Week, we held a screening of Live the life you please at Palace Cinema. This was a powerful documentary which explored end-of-life stories from across Australia and I am pleased to say it was well attended. We contributed to the Voluntary Assisted Dying debate and also ran a short survey on our website seeking people's views.



In August we held a 'Dying to Know You" day to encourage conversations that need to be had - discussions that empower individuals to make informed decisions at the end of life. Then in October a number of volunteers plus a carer from Leo's Place immersed themselves in the art of flower arranging at Cuppacumbalong.

These achievements all ran alongside our day-to-day work. Our staff support those people at end of life and their families, the Board ensures proper governance and financial viability, the Risk and Audit Committee reviews decisions to ensure compliance with our obligations and objectives, our Constitution expert worked hard to bring it up to date, and, importantly, we have all our wonderful volunteers who have unstintingly provided support to people in need. I think Palliative Care ACT has a great deal to be proud of and I thank each and every person who made their individual contribution to our success.

As the monthly volunteer meeting has now been re-established, led by Kylie and Paula, we have decided to cease publishing the outcomes from our Board meetings. They were originally started to fill a gap in communication, but I feel that with the team we have in place now will be able to keep everyone across all the significant issues.

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 2024 be a good year for all.

Dr. Louise Mayo AM  
Chair

