



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2023

The past year has been one of change, transition and challenge for members as the effects of the pandemic continue to be felt and the growing financial challenges across the system.

Adding to the fiscal challenges, we have seen a number of outcomes external to enterprise agreements that included unfunded EFT allocations, adding to the overall burden. That approach is unsustainable and speaks to the challenges now being faced by the sector.

For VHIA, the protracted nature of bargaining for some public sector agreements has meant that the most recent round of bargaining is ending just as the next one is expected to begin. Having a more efficient approach to bargaining remains a priority.

Pleasingly, we have maintained our ISO9001 certification following an audit in March. This means that we have maintained our accreditation since 2020, as we continue to improve our systems and processes.

Member engagement across our platforms increased last year. This comes as we continue to improve our communications and services to support members to implement and comply with industrial agreements.

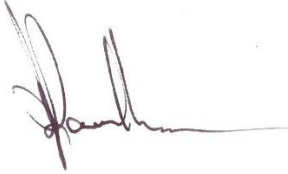
The Board finalised a new Strategic Plan, which contains a greater emphasis on advocacy for reform and workforce issues. Our sense is that a greater emphasis on advocacy is essential to make the case for reform, including with respect to bargaining. In particular, it is our view that the current number of enterprise agreements is a major driver of inequity for employees and generates unacceptable compliance risks.

The financial performance of VHIA goes from remains strong. An operating surplus of \$310,904 was recorded, however this result related to difficulty in recruiting and retaining support staff for most of the financial year. Net assets have now risen to \$6,323,132.

I wish to thank the VHIA staff and the Executive Team for their work in supporting us to do our work as members and for continuing to reform the bargaining process and associated services.

The Board of VHIA continues to dedicate their time and expertise to the organisation. I thank them for their hard work, stewardship and support to me as President. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the contribution and service of departing Board members Karen Lowe (Monash Health), Sue Race (Dhelkaya Health) and Mara Richards (Robinvale and District Health Service) for their contribution and insight both through their contributions to the Board and subcommittees. I would also like to acknowledge and thank my immediate predecessor as President, Dale Fraser (Grampians Health), who is leaving the Board, for his tireless advocacy and dedication over a long period of time.

Finally, this is my last Report as President. As I head into retirement, I am extremely grateful for opportunity to fulfil the role of President of VHIA. The work that is undertaken by Stuart and his team, under the guidance, support and dedication of the Board is essential to the functioning of our great health system. I extend my thanks to you, the Members that enable VHIA, for your ongoing commitment and support. I wish you all the very best for the future.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Peter Faulkner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Faulkner
President