



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
FRIDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2024

The past year for VHIA has been dominated by enterprise bargaining activity. For VHIA members, it has been a year of significant uncertainty and imposing fiscal challenges. Whilst the pandemic may not be front of mind for much of the community, Covid-19 continues to impact activity levels and our workforce.

The Expert Committee's report on the Health Services Plan makes it clear that change is coming to our sector which present a range of challenges.

As part of VHIA's current strategic plan, the organisation established the role of 'Workforce Manager'. As part of this role, workforce reference groups were established for a number of occupations and VHIA published position papers on workforce data, with an article on the same subject appearing in 'The Health Advocate'. VHIA also made submissions to Medical Board of Australia on specialist registration and late career health checks and to the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia on nurse practitioner registration standards.

With a new round of bargaining came the implementation of the amended bargaining framework which includes an enhanced process for member consultation on the development of Employer Logs.

This was supported by Rural and Regional Forums that were conducted on-site to ensure those members had the best opportunity to determine the claims being made on their behalf. I know that the VHIA Team Members greatly appreciated the chance to meet with members in person.

Consultation with members was also a key feature of VHIA's submission to the recent Ministerial Review on the Medical Workforce. I am looking forward to release of the resulting report.

Engagement with members was enhanced by the launch of 'VHIA Groups' in [insert date]. This is, in effect, our social media platform and enables us to give real-time updates to members on critical issues. Earlier attempts, such as Viva Engage, were hampered by access issues that were experienced by some members. The new platform resolved these and were gratified by how well it was received by members.

VHIA retained its ISO 9001 accreditation this year. This was first obtained in 2020 and has been maintained since. It reflects our commitment to the continued improvement of our organisation.

The financial performance of VHIA remains strong, recording an operating surplus of \$345,114. Net assets have now risen to \$6,684,887.

I wish to thank members for their participation and support and the VHIA staff and Executive Team for their work.

I also wish to acknowledge the work and dedication of the VHIA Board and their support to me in my first year as VHIA President. I particularly want to note the service provided by departing Board member, Dr Mark Garwood. Mark spent 8 years on our Board and, during that time, made a substantial contribution. In particular, his support through the bargaining process (and beyond) for Doctors was keenly appreciated by the VHIA team and made an appreciable and significant difference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A Horsburgh', written in a cursive style.

Adam Horsburgh
President