

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Friday, 11 October 2019

In the past year VHIA has continued to make progress. This progress has been most evident in a more 'system-driven' approach to the organisation's activities, including the management of member queries and the VHIA Enterprise Bargaining Framework.

This has been part of an on-going effort to improve VHIA's service levels and the value-proposition to members. Further changes will occur in the coming year including a new website (with an enhanced search function) and the return of 'Know Your Agreements' training.

The Board has been busy this year, with a range of subcommittees operating. These include the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee, the Workplace Relations (IR) Strategy Committee and the Member Engagement Committee. The Member Engagement Committee has been supported by additional volunteers to oversee and provide feedback as VHIA has implemented changes arising from the 2018 'Needs Analysis' project.

2019 is the final year of our current strategic plan. That plan had three key objectives:

- To support our members to achieve their service delivery goals through services and support that meet their needs,
- To contribute to improvements in the IR system in which our members operate, and
- To be a high-performing, sustainable, member-driven organisation.

The current strategic plan has provided a framework to develop and improve VHIA. There is a desire on the part of the VHIA Board and the organisation to take that work further.

One of the key remaining challenges for us concerns workforce. It's acknowledged that much more work needs to be done on workforce so that health services and community health centres can meet the emerging and future health needs of their communities. IR often involves resistance to change which, in turn, stifles innovation. The enduring challenge for VHIA is how to ensure that IR doesn't act as an obstacle to evidence-based change and reform.

Being an active leader in Victoria's health workforce need and capabilities will be a key focus of VHIA's next strategic plan in 2020.

I'd like to acknowledge the work of VHIA Board members and thank departing Board members, Jan Child and Vicki Poxon, for their contribution. In particular, I want to acknowledge the contribution of Perry Muncaster who is retiring from his role at Barwon Health and, as a result, leaving our Board after five years. As not only a Board member but the chair of several subcommittees (including the IR Subcommittee), Perry has done much to support the changes at VHIA and his leadership and wise counsel will be missed both here at VHIA and more broadly across the sector.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the members for their contribution to VHIA. To those who attended a meeting, submitted feedback or sat on one of our committees, your participation makes all the difference. We look forward to your continued involvement as we enter the upcoming bargaining round.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Dale Fraser', with a large loop at the top and a horizontal line at the bottom.

Dale Fraser
President