

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Friday, 9 October 2020

The past year has seen VHIA put its Bargaining Framework into practice as a new round of bargaining commenced. Whilst there's much bargaining still to be done, we ultimately want a more systematized approach that supports discussion on reform and workforce issues. Such discussions are both necessary and inevitable but are too often deferred in favour of more immediate industrial relations concerns.

Consistent with the implementation of the VHIA Bargaining Framework, the organisation achieved ISO 9001:2016 accreditation for the first time in February. We recognise that ISO accreditation does not signal the end of our efforts to further develop VHIA as an organisation, but it's a sign that we've made real progress. This milestone comes as we continue to work to make VHIA the best organisation it can be and deliver better member value and service.

It was that desire to deliver better member service and member value that led us to have discussions with the Victorian Healthcare Association. Whilst the Boards agreed not pursue a formal merger at this time, the process has emphasised the need for us to partner more effectively to achieve better outcomes on critical issues, such as workforce policy.

To that end, in the coming year we will develop a new strategic plan for VHIA. We see this as an opportunity to consider how we best deliver member value at a time of enormous pressure for members, both financially and in terms of service delivery.

I would like to acknowledge the willingness of members to actively engage in VHIA activities, particularly during the bargaining process. This participation has been hugely beneficial, especially in a year that was so challenging for so many.

I also wish to thank the other members of the VHIA Board for their commitment to the organisation. In last year's report I acknowledged, in particular, those Board members who had left and their lasting contribution. This year, I want to acknowledge those who have joined the Board in the past year and the value, experience and wisdom they have added. Mara Richards (Robinvale District Health Services), Sue Race (Kilmore and District Hospital) and Mark Lawrence (Western Health) joined us in October 2019. Karen Lowe (Monash Health) joined us in March.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dale Fraser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dale Fraser
President