

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the Annual Meeting last year I reported to you that it was difficult to envisage our Association progressing in its present structure and that consideration should be given to adopting the system used in the United States of America. There they have a national organisation with state sub branches.

Nominations were called to fill the position of president and published in the Winter edition of "Australian Infection Control," the closing date was listed as 30th June but because of continuing problems with distribution of the journal it was necessary to delay until the end of July. However as I write, some states have still not received their journal and the executive will leave the position open until each member has had the opportunity to consider the position and respond accordingly. I can only apologise on behalf of the executive and the journal sub committee.

To date, there has only been one applicant, as indicated in my report to the Annual General Meeting in Melbourne in May 1997, I shall step down from this position now and appoint Cathryn Murphy, Vice President as caretaker president until a formal election can take place.

Cathryn holds the position of Senior Policy Analyst, Infection Control with the NSW Health Department and is currently studying for her doctorate in the area of infection control. She is a very active member of the executive, chairing the Strategic Planning Committee since its inception.

I regret that I cannot formally hand over this position at this point but sincerely wish Cathryn well in her caretaker position.

Another position advertised in the journal, was for associate editor of the journal. Again, only one nomination was received, to date, and Gabby Robathan from Western Australia will caretake this position.

Members have expressed concern over many issues concerning the journal and to this end, the executive has elected to appoint a new publisher. Ink Press, publishers of the wound care journal Primary Intention and Australian Critical Care as well as many other professional publications will take over for a three-year period, at which time further review will be undertaken. The managing director of Ink Press is extremely enthusiastic about the future of our journal and together with the appointment of an associate editor and a panel of expert reviewers to share the enormous workload carried by Di Dalton, the journal has, I'm sure, a bright future.

Each state has been asked to appoint three people to form the editorial panel for future journal articles and they should be an Epidemiologist, a Microbiologist and an Infection Control Practitioner. This will fulfil one of the commitments made by the executive, which is to work towards a more professional journal.

Accreditation and EQulP has also made an interesting change. The Australian Council for Healthcare Standards has requested dialogue with AICA to pilot a program of closer consultation, designed to guide surveyors and providers in the areas of significance in relation to quality patient care. Naturally, we are delighted to be the first organisation

approached by the council and will look to expanding the terms of reference for the Standards Sub Committee which will now convene to meet the challenge.

Another change has been in the Credentialling Sub Committee, with Dolly Oleson from Queensland taking over the chair from Marilyn Leaver. Marilyn has done a tremendous amount of work over the years attending the many meetings of the National Nursing Organisation, on behalf of the association. Marilyn will continue work on this committee, giving the benefit of her wisdom.

Members have been asked to become involved in the organisation in whichever way they feel able. To this end, the AICA - 1997 Recruitment form was published in the Winter journal. I urge you to become involved for your own professional development as well as the development and growth of your organisation.

Another annual conference has come and gone and another state can feel justifiably proud of a job well done. The scientific program for the 1997 Conference in Melbourne was outstanding with excellent speakers covering interesting and relevant issues. All who attended would have found benefit in some, if not all papers. Thank you to the Victorian Conference Committee for both the scientific and the social program. What a magnificent way to end with dinner at the Menzies.

It must be difficult for the next state to surpass such an event but, if I may, I would like to end on a parochial note. Western Australia is certainly trying very hard to do just that, so save your pennies. Richard Wenzell and Julia Garner head an all-star cast that you too can share. Concurrent sessions will ensure a wide diversity of topics to suit the needs of most infection control practitioners

Thank you all for your support and friendship during my term as president of the Australian Infection Control Association. I shall watch the inevitable progress with interest and assist wherever possible.

Madeleine McPherson
President

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