

Chairperson's Report

October 2024

It was great to meet members at our information day in Orange. We are committed to continue our information days which have been very well received by our members and the Orange Information Day was another successful event.

We have had a member of the board retire and I would like to thank John Hickey for his contribution while on the board. At our upcoming Annual General Meeting we will have one board position to fill and look forward to welcoming a new member to the board.

The Health Department who funds our ostomy supplies is again reviewing the Stoma Appliance Scheme. There are two parts to the review. One is reviewing the product range and number of products available on the scheme. This may affect members directly if products they are using are removed from the scheme.

The second part of the current review is looking again at the distribution arrangement which is the role of your stoma association. The government has caused much concern among members and the stoma associations with their continual review of the scheme. We operate an efficient supply of products as a nonprofit association that exists solely for the benefit of ostomates, and we work very efficiently. I really hope there is no disruptions to members from the decisions the Federal Health Department comes up with because of this process.

Whatever changes the Health Department proposes, we will do our best to ensure there is a minimum disruption to members getting their supplies. There has also been no response from the Department on the submission our national body ACSA made to increase our funding which has not increased in many years.

We are still managing to operate effectively despite the pressures and appreciate very much the donations we receive from members and others to assist in providing the additional support services for members.

Keep well.

Dr Allen Nash

Chairperson - NSW Stoma Ltd