

# **FRIENDLY SOCIETY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

## **CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

Welcome ladies and gentlemen and thank you for taking the time to be here today.

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the traditional lands of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plain. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I ask you to take a moment to remember our late Chairman, Robert (Bob) Kennedy, who passed away in March this year. Bob joined the Board on 30 July 1985 and was appointed Chairman on 23 March 2009. His dedication and guidance to our organisation will always be remembered along with his fair, but no-nonsense attitude.

Our organisation is now in its 107<sup>th</sup> year and our purpose is to provide professional, quality, health services to our 270,000 members across three states of Australia and the communities in which we operate. Pharmacy continues to face challenges through PBS reform as the Federal Government continues its pursuit of cost reduction due to the demand for new medicines and to compensate for the rising cost of health due to the ageing population.

Our response to these challenges has been to introduce a number of new initiatives, including our "Where Wonder Meets Wisdom" marketing campaign. Our Managing Director, Mr Tony Wojciechowski will outline the campaign in more detail shortly.

We have also continued to invest in new information and technology programs to deliver a fully integrated user experience for our customers and to streamline the administration processes across the organisation.

In October we were delighted to announce that National Pharmacies will be the naming rights sponsor of the 2019 Adelaide Christmas Pageant. We believe this partnership of two iconic South Australian brands is an excellent fit for our organisation and a way of giving back to the community. We hope to involve as many members as possible in the event.

Today we vote on two resolutions – a change in auditor which was the result of a competitive tender process and the re-election of Greg Connor. Greg's performance has been reviewed by the Board and without hesitation the Board recommends him for re-appointment.

My thanks go to all of our employees, management and my fellow directors for their dedication to the provision of benefits and services to our members and to achieving our Vision – “Value adding to our Members' lives”. I also take this opportunity to thank our members for their continued support.

**P F CARR**  
**CHAIRMAN**