

HCQ Annual Report 2008 - 2009

Thursday, 15 October 2009

Last Updated Friday, 16 October 2009

This Annual Report is for the 14th AGM of the Hepatitis Council of Queensland, concluding a year that has, once again, passed very quickly.

Council has achieved an enormous amount during the year, as is reflected in the content of this report. We have concluded three major projects that contributed to the wellbeing of many people in Queensland whose lives are affected by viral hepatitis. The end of these projects has meant also departure of the project staff; thank you to Kelly Harper, Vanessa Soper, Phil Hogben, Christine Pilgrim and Tanya Zollinger, all of whom have made a difference. Nicky Newley, Nicola Hodge and Shamus Brown also played a significant part in these projects and are still on the scene at Council in different roles. Coping with these departures from the Team has proven to be more difficult than accepting those same new people into the Team environment 18 months ago.

Funding for the future has been uncertain during the year, but has now been resolved, with Queensland Health announcing a 5 year funding term, with some increases. On the other hand, as we all know, operating costs are forever increasing. One increase I am pleased to cope with is the recent increases in Award wages for staff, which have now been awarded for each six months to 2012. Much needed; with recognition appreciated.

We have had a huge response to National Awareness Week advertising and to awareness programs in prisons; the phone calls are increasing, as are visits to the Council website. I take this as a good sign that we are actually making a difference in the level of awareness throughout the community. This Report, as usual, contains loads of data that represent the outcomes achieved. I hope you are able to devote time to reading it again this year, as it conveys the extent to which the staff team supports the membership, and the general public, in providing information and support in the community.

The names of all Council staff are included in this Report and again I applaud and thank them for their efforts over the year. The staff team has again worked long hours all year with an enthusiasm that still amazes me; it is clear that this also amazes others, and is the source of the credibility and respect that greets Council efforts wherever we go. The staff Team can be justifiably proud of their achievements for the people we support.

Membership numbers have increased and we continue to enjoy excellent relationships with other agencies in the hepatitis sector. We also continue to enjoy success in our collaborative work arrangements. The Board members are dedicated volunteers and I thank them for the support I have received throughout the year.

My thanks to all of you who have contributed to the work of Council. Your efforts are valued and very much appreciated.

The year has been a good one for Council, and I am sure that the next will be even better.

Clint Ferndale

CEO

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