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A Message from the ACAP President

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ACAP UPDATE

A Message from the President

Allen Marr (National President ACAP)

Article No.990096

Welcome to this update of College activities. It is really gratifying for ACAP to participate in the ongoing development of the eJournal and to observe the growth and professionalism of this medium of knowledge and communication to visitors to the JEPHC site.

In bringing you this update, it is pleasing to inform readers that the College continues to provide outstanding member services whilst ensuring that the goals of self development, professionalism and recognition are pursued at a national and state level. Our major thrust is to promote our presence as a professional organization and to support our membership in matters of personal development relating to “out of hospital” health care practices. The development of our organizational governance is pleasing and aligns with strong directional thinking, futuristic decision-making and the adherence to appropriate strategic goal outcomes. Our policy of greater membership inclusiveness continues to gain impetus with a united approach to recruitment across Australia and the implementation of an international membership category.

The College now has the ability to provide our members with services and support as a professional organization due to the introduction of an established funding base which has brought about the advantage of financial independence. The ability to fund additional services has seen increased interest from prospective members and all States have recorded an increase in membership over the last twelve months. This is a particularly pleasing aspect, which shows value for money is an essential consideration to prospective members.

A key improvement factor in our financial improvement and marketing development has been the contribution of Mr. Bill Elsy as a seconded Director to the national Board of ACAP. We have benefited greatly from his counsel and expertise in promoting the College both nationally and internationally. The design and distribution of recruitment pamphlets to ambulance personnel, formulation of new members’ folders, the placement of our national “Ambshop” on the College website and subsequent production of the “Ambshop” colour catalogue recently, are all a direct result of the marketing initiative taken by the College.

In relation to communication with our members, our “Response” magazine continues to be a major instrument for distributing news and articles relating to things of an ambulance nature. Its focus has changed recently to meet the needs of a wider audience within the ambulance profession with articles of general interest and information. Response relies on articles of interest from members and contributions from providers associated with “out of hospital” health care.

Our College website has given us a “window to the world” in recent years. This has been largely due to the dedicated work of its designer and Webmaster Evan Lloyd. Since 1996, Evan has maintained and upgraded the site to ensure our College has been visible to kindred organizations on a national and international basis. ACAP thanks Evan, who is taking a well-

earned rest from this role. We are currently reviewing issues on a national basis through the appointment of “Branch Web Moderators” who are looking at the format, level of information and access of all web pages. Issues currently being implemented and/or considered include a national database where members will have the ability to update their personal details, and the introduction of a personal access password for College members to certain areas of the web page.

There are many forums and seminars conducted by the College and associated organizations in all States of Australia. These continue to provide members with the opportunity to broaden their professional expertise and personal development whilst putting the College onto centre stage as the representative body of ambulance officers and “out of hospital health care” practitioners across Australia.

The College continues to pursue “professional recognition” for its members and is developing a ‘Certified Ambulance Professional’ (CAP) program. This is based on a re – configuration of the original National Professional Recognition Program (NPRP) which was formulated with the Flinders University of South Australia. Important issues to ambulance officers nationally, such as ‘portability of qualifications’, ‘right to practice’ and ‘registration/regulation’ remain largely unanswered, and the CAP program attempts to address the following issues as follows:

- To provide a quality assurance contribution to ambulance patient care and ambulance services in Australia by encouraging ambulance personnel to manage and take responsibility for their own individual knowledge and competency, and
- To facilitate national professional recognition for ambulance professionals and enhance recognition of ambulance qualifications between State and Territory ambulance authorities and other pre-hospital care providers.

We believe our Constitution and direction lends itself to such an outcome and we have been pursuing this strategy through discussion and the circulation of our re-written policy document. This subject will be discussed at the national conference in Alice Springs where the college will officially launch the CAP program.

I congratulate the Northern Territory Conference Committee for organizing what promises to be an outstanding educational opportunity for all College members. The staging of a State or National conference is a huge task with many hours of hard work expected from willing workers, many of whom receive little recognition. However, the personal rewards are great and it is very satisfying to know a successful conference has been planned and conducted.

Again, I make the appeal to the many talented members in our College who should be taking an active leadership role in promoting the objectives of our organization. The Board remains committed to ensuring the membership has a greater involvement and voice in the affairs of the College. We need action people so, are looking for supportive folk and contributors to the future strategic direction of the College. We are now in a position to “buy in” assistance and expertise to support our leaders at state and national level so that we don’t burn out our effective contributors. With our new solid funding base, and the involvement of more members taking a leadership role, we can achieve a great deal for the College in the coming months.