

President's Report – ANZHNCS Annual General Meeting

Good afternoon everyone.

It is my pleasure to present my President's Report on behalf of the Executive and Board of ANZHNCS.

The past year has been one of significant progress for the Society. While we've had our share of challenges, we've used them as opportunities to strengthen ANZHNCS and position the Society well for the future. Looking back, I think our achievements can be grouped into three areas: strengthening the Society, strengthening education, and strengthening our partnerships.

Strengthening the Society

A major focus this year has been governance.

During the year we identified a number of issues with our governance structure that largely reflected the Society's evolution over many years. We've worked through these systematically and have implemented several important changes.

The most significant has been securing ACNC registration for ANZHNCS as a Health Promotion Charity. This ensures the Society itself is appropriately recognised as the charitable organisation delivering our mission.

We've also commenced the process of bringing the Research Foundation back into the Society. The Foundation served an important role when ANZHNCS was an incorporated association, but now that we are a company and a registered charity, maintaining separate entities creates unnecessary complexity. Consolidating the Foundation within ANZHNCS will simplify governance and allow us to focus our resources where they have the greatest impact.

We've also invested in improving the experience for our members through the introduction of Membes, which will modernise our membership platform and provide a much better experience for members interacting with the Society.

Another important piece of work has been our relationship with our Secretariat, The Association Specialists. Earlier this year the Executive identified a number of areas where we needed stronger administrative support. I want to acknowledge TAS for the way they responded. They listened, committed to improving their service, and have already implemented a number of positive changes. Based on that commitment, the Executive has agreed to continue working with TAS and we look forward to building on that relationship.

Strengthening Education

Education remains one of the Society's core functions, and I'd like to acknowledge the outstanding work of our Communication and Education Committee.

Over the past year they have delivered an excellent webinar programme that has provided high-quality education to our members while also generating an important source of revenue for the Society. This has been a tremendous effort from everyone involved in organising, moderating and presenting these sessions.

I'd also like to congratulate Sandro and the organising committee for delivering an exceptional IFHNOS World Congress and ANZHNCS Annual Scientific Meeting. Hosting a meeting of that scale is an enormous undertaking, and the quality of the scientific programme and international engagement reflected an extraordinary amount of work behind the scenes. It has showcased our region on the international stage, and Sandro and the entire team should be very proud of what they have achieved.

Strengthening Partnerships

One of the things I have particularly enjoyed this year has been continuing to build our partnership with Head and Neck Cancer Australia.

Our inaugural Gala Ball was a wonderful example of what can be achieved when our organisations work together. It was a fantastic evening, an important fundraising event, and, more importantly, demonstrated the value of bringing together all the groups of clinicians that work with head and neck cancer as well as the patients themselves along with their friends and family.

That partnership continued with our recent Parliamentary Lunch in Canberra, where we worked alongside HANCA to advocate for patients with head and neck cancer. Having clinicians and consumer advocates presenting a united voice is incredibly powerful, and I believe this is an area where we can continue to make a real difference.

Thanks

Finally, I'd like to thank the Executive and Board. It has been a privilege to work alongside such a committed and thoughtful group of people. The work that happens behind the scenes is considerable, and everything we've achieved this year reflects a genuine team effort.

I'd also like to thank all of our committee members, volunteers and members who continue to give their time so generously to support the Society.

ANZHNCS continues to go from strength to strength. We have strengthened our governance, invested in the future of the Society, expanded our educational activities and continued to build meaningful partnerships. I think we are well placed for the opportunities ahead.