

12/10/2021

NSW Stoma Chairperson's Report

What a challenging year! We have all had to deal with managing the risk of COVID for our particularly vulnerable ostomate community. It was good to hear from you (NSW Stoma members) via the ACSA survey which reinforced that a large majority of you have a high regard for the way your associations managed the pandemic.

NSW stoma staff have applied great effort to get supplies to members in a timely way despite the delays and extra costs involved in compliance as well as difficulties with Australia Post delivery delays.

There was much relief felt all around from the Health Department's potential tender for the whole Stoma Appliance Scheme being cancelled. It has been hanging over us all for some time now. This means that the distribution of stoma products will remain in the hands of not-for-profit associations run by ostomates like NSW Stoma.

I look forward to the coming year with hopefully a more stable environment that will give us all a chance to take a breather and give us time focus on further improving our service and support to our ostomate community throughout Australia.

I have had much positive feedback that the World Ostomy Day webinar held on the 2nd October was very much enjoyed by the participants. It was great to be able to connect with ostomates around Australia in this time of isolation due to COVID. NSW Stoma took the lead in organising this webinar.

We have had one of our NSW stoma Board members leave recently. Andrea Cross made a great contribution to the board in assisting in further developing the standards of governance at NSW Stoma and her work was much appreciated.

There is a new board member joining the board. Shona Gawel is most welcome as she has skills in communications which complements the skills of current board members.

We also have a new voluntary Treasurer, Ian Niccol, who is a Chartered Accountant (a rare find) and who is also most welcome. All the board are looking forward to working with him over the next year.

NSW Stoma is now the largest Stoma Association in Australia, and we look forward to continuing to provide the best service and support for members that we can moving forward into the next stage of the COVID situation.

Keep well

Dr Allen Nash

NSW Stoma Chairperson