

Chairperson Report from Dr Allen Nash October 2023

We had a year which was less eventful than the past three years and it is good to feel we are back on track with our operations working well. COVID has lingering effects but is more manageable in the effects on staffing and product supplies. Thanks to the dedication of our staff, we continue to be able to keep members supplies being delivered within a reasonable time.

I anticipate members will be pleased with our new portal (available in November) that will allow members to order their supplies on-line and see past orders etc. This innovation is part of our continued focus on finding ways to further support members. Implementing this new system has temporarily increased the workload of our staff and they have managed this with minimum disruption to member deliveries.

Shona Gawel is retiring as a board member at this year's Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank Shona very much for the great contribution she has made to NSW Stoma. She has supported the board through her high-level professional knowledge of organisational management and will be missed.

We are also welcoming a new board member, Lynda Frost, who has already demonstrated her commitment to ostomates through her contribution to the Newcastle District Ostomy Support Group. She is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and brings a range of experience across the public and private sectors in education and training, local government, financial services, travel, manufacturing, and engineering.

It has been a pleasure to be working with an experienced and committed board of ostomates who are working well together and are committed to providing the best service we can to members.

I also want to especially thank our members who have donated to NSW Stoma. Their donations have made a difference in keeping the organisation financially stable and allowing us to extend our services to members beyond providing supplies e.g., stomal therapy nurse support, information days around NSW, monthly zoom information sessions to members etc.

We have continued to grow with member numbers increasing over the year again this year. This trend is increasing pressure on our premises capacity, and we will need to be looking at expansion options over the next year.

I am pleased that I can reassure members that their association is in a sound financial state and operating within good governance principals.

Keep well

Dr Allen Nash

Chairperson NSW Stoma