

Chairperson's Report for the NSW stoma Journal

We had a series of successful member information days around the state this year and it was great to catch up with members and hear their feedback. The ability to see the products and talk to suppliers has always been appreciated. Our Stomal Therapy Nurses again made significant contributions demonstrating their commitment to supporting ostomates. We have continuously received positive feedback from members from the information days and so are committed to continue with them.

We are losing two of our long-standing board members Carol Quast and Ian Murray who have both made significant contributions to NSW stoma beyond what is expected of the position. Carol is well known to members for her presentations at our information days and our regular online zoom sessions with members. Thankfully, she will be continuing to support members as a volunteer after leaving the board. Ian Murray made significant contributions to the selecting new software to run the distribution of products which was needed to replace a system that was not meeting our needs. I wish them well and wish to offer a big thank you on behalf of the board and members for their important contributions.

We continue to receive no news about the Federal Health Departments reviewing of the distribution arrangements of the Stoma Appliance Scheme. We seem to be in a perpetual state of wondering what is happening with several reviews in recent years.

The current operations to distribute your products is working well. NSW Stoma is a not-for-profit organisation run by ostomate for ostomates. Through committed volunteers and member donations we can not only provide a cost-effective distribution service but provide extra support for members such as our providing Stomal Therapy Nurse, members information days, and monthly zoom discussion sessions.

We hope that the Health Department does not disrupt our current system that is working well in the interests of ostomates and alleviate the cost pressures with a moderate increase in funding.

Keep well

Dr Allen Nash

Chairperson - NSW Stoma Ltd