



President's REPORT – Ms Kristy Hollis CMA AGM Meeting 20th Nov. 2022

Report of major activities which took place over the last twelve months:

Welcome to the end of another eventful, though progressive year. I can't believe we started the year floods and are now ending the year with floods again on the East Coast – my thoughts are with those members and their families at this time. Thank you to our Board members for your support with usual member enquiries, hosting webinars and your voluntary time for various meetings throughout the year. Thanks as always to Tammy for her resourcefulness to support our members, and we welcomed Brad as our new casual Administration Assistant to support the CMA family. The Board appreciate all that you both do within the office, especially during times of change within the industry. As a team, we are continuously working towards improving efficiency with communications and strategies to support our members and staff as best we can.

Unfortunately, earlier this year we saw Rosemary resign, and we welcomed two new casual directors to assist our Board with day-to-day operations. Nadia Shaw with her keen interest in social media and seeking to progress the profession towards registration – it has been a pleasure to work with you so far. Louise Kaiser brought her expertise in administration and government liaisons to give a greater insight into how to approach and work with government to gain support for our professions.

With the lifting of 'COVID-19 restrictions', we had many visits to our educational supporters this year. Jarrod visited the Melbourne campus of Torrens University in February to chat to students and encourage them to sign up for student memberships. Shenaz then attend the Torrens university campus in Brisbane for their Industry Day in May - meeting students, various company reps and other association representatives. Before the May face-to-face meeting, Jarrod and myself visited the new Brisbane campus of Endeavour College of Natural Health and met with Torrens University clinical staff at both Brisbane campuses to see how we can further support their students and reinforcing the importance of on-campus lectures and clinical hours to solidify their learnings. Then in July, both Nadia and Shenaz met with Endeavour College of Natural Therapies for a networking breakfast. All these interactions have led to growth in the student member numbers.

The CMA has also been working closely with OneCAM members via Zoom meetings this year. February saw letters to Health ministers regarding the 'Unity in Healthcare' being submitted. A Pre-budget submission was also submitted in February, and more recently a submission into Long COVID was submit just this last week. We are continuously working to raise the profile of Natural Health Practitioners with making submissions to the Ministers of Health, National Preventative Health Strategy, whilst making a positive social media presence.

NTREAP – this has been going very slowly this year, with a March meeting indicating that things may be finalised by July. Unfortunately there has been very little further development this year – hopefully further review in April next year.

Greg has again presented numerous webinars for our members – your knowledge is greatly appreciated in so many topics by our members, thank you Greg for your time and energy. Thanks to Vincent for his support in seeking presenters and coordinating all the webinars this year, your dedication does not go unnoticed. External presentations by Board members this year included - Shenaz presenting on Infertility at the Hahnemann Day – a Global Homeopathy Marathon in April, and myself presenting on Herbs for Health and Healing at the Australian Reflexology Association Conference in September.

The CMA social network profile has lifted this year with Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn being active with good positive engagement, and new followers growing daily. We have continued to work on upgrading our website to benefit our members – though have hit a few bumps along the way. I hope this can be resolved in early 2023. I feel these areas are important and a good foundation to lift our online presence.

The CMA Board decided to launch a “Food is Medicine - Nutrition Week” to highlight awareness and support our Nutrition members this year. Louise and Nadia worked well together to share our inaugural Nutrition Week beginning the 18th July across various social media platforms. Louise wrote numerous nutrition articles, which created an interactive space for our Nutrition members - we will build on this for next year.

In May the CMA became an initial signatory to the WNF’s ‘The People’s Declaration for Traditional, Complementary and Integrative Healthcare’. This is a worldwide, grassroots initiative to call to action policy makers for better healthcare. The WNF - Health Technology Assessment document (sponsored by fellow ANC member NHAA) was also completed this year, with the launch being held in Canberra at Parliament House next Wednesday 23rd November. Jarrod and I are attending to represent and liaise with federal politicians about the importance of registration of Naturopaths and Herbalists.

The Naturopathy Regulatory Research Project (NRR Project) has been very busy with work by ANC members. The research team is headed by Dr Anne-Louise Carlton, a consultant with extensive experience in health workforce regulation, Dr Amie Steele, Dr Jon Wardle and some of the original researchers who contributed to the original Lin Report. A couple of new research assistants were brought in, Jenny Care and Melissa Poczwa (CMA student member) to assist with the final draft submission to ensure we have it circulated before the HTA launch next week in Canberra. Representatives from the ANC are volunteering many hours to assist in the NRR project, it has been a long progress but finally we are seeing the light at the end of the ‘first tunnel’.

1. Submission has now gone out for public consultation this week and has been forwarded to all other naturopathic associations to review and comment. Information Zoom meetings are being coordinated to answer any queries, and feedback is encouraged via ANC website.
2. It is then added to COAG agenda and referred to Australian Health Ministers advisory Council (AHMAC)
3. AHMAC will assess the submission to ensure it meets specific criteria, and then provide the Health Council, composed of Australian Health Ministers, with its preliminary assessment advice. All being well, the next stage is a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)
4. This process is usually managed by a lead jurisdiction(s) in partnership with the Office of Best Practice Regulation and can take many months to complete. It includes:
 - a. preparing a consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS)
 - b. conducting a national consultation, and finally

- c. preparing a final RIS in line with the COAG best practice regulation requirements.
5. The final RIS report will make a recommendation to accept or reject the application for registration.

The whole process may take a couple of years to complete and will require proactive lobbying of Ministers and relevant parties from this moment on.

Also, within ANC this year, we have been very active and made numerous submissions to government regarding public health. Our first was in February for the pre-budget submission, then earlier this month I was heavily involved with another submission for the National Health Literacy Strategy. We have also submitted a comprehensive submission on Long COVID under the ANC banner this week.

As President, I would like to offer sincere thanks to all members of the Board and our Administration staff as they all contribute to the success of serving our members and day to day running of the association and support me during these changing times. We all have put in a lot of time and energy into discussions and decisions to support our profession. Thank you all for your support once again in another massive year of change, it seems at times that this is only the beginning. Thank you to Jarrod who has always been on the other end of the phone as any concerns arise, and to the whole team – I really do appreciate your support.

Kristy Hollis

President