



President's REPORT – Ms Kristy Hollis CMA AGM Meeting 29th October 2023

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

Welcome to the end of another very busy year. This year we welcomed Nadia Shaw, Jackie Bowker and Roberta Barbiellini to the Board. It's lovely to have new enthusiastic members to enliven our discussions and look for ways to 'future proof' the CMA. We also welcomed Tracy to join the Administration team in April to further support Tammy and Brad in the office. The CMA Board met in May on the Gold Coast to 'future plan' which included resetting the CMA vision and branding, begin planning the new website, revising our advertising schedule to build on revenue, and a review of the administration team duties.

Directly after the face-to-face meeting, I returned to Brisbane to attend Parliament House to join the ANC lobby group to attend a meeting with the Shadow Minister for Health the Hon. Roslyn Bates. We discussed the importance registration of naturopaths, private health insurance rebates and how naturopaths can ease pressure on the public health system. The ANC presented her with a copy of the WNF Health Technology Assessment to highlight the research supporting our profession. I then travelled on to Melbourne to meet with fellow ANC members to plan the live registration webinar event, and to also attend the Southern Cross University National Centre for Natural Medicine launch function.

Alongside fellow ANC members we have made submissions to government regarding public health. Our first was in February for the pre-budget submission which related to the reinstatement of private health rebates, and to lift funding for research for naturopathy. We also made a submission to ANZSCO (Aust. & NZ Standards of Occupations) for Allied Health, in relation to lifting the education standards for both Naturopaths and Western Herbalists under the ANC banner this week.

In June ANC members invited all other naturopathic associations to join us in a live discussion about registration of naturopaths, and how this would impact our members. ATMS and ANPA declined the invitation to attend, though ANPA did share the invitation with their members. ANTA accepted to partake an active role in the events organisation, along with CMA and NHAA (who facilitated the technicalities). "Lifting the Invisibility Cloak" was MC'd by Rachel Arthur and was seen a success with over 1500 registrations, creating much debate and positive engagement from those who did not fully understand what registration about and how it may benefit them if Government approves the Apha registration application. A short survey after the event provided the following data.

- 55.7% support registration
- 26.6% don't support registration
- 17.7% remain undecided.

The CMA will look a working with other associations on a follow-up event in 2024.

The Naturopathy Regulatory Research Project (NRR Project) is nearing conclusion with Dr Anne-Louise Carlton and research assistant Jenny Care finalising the last chapter now. 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 tunnel the end of this year.

The OneCAM meetings have been limited this year, though Greg assisted with submissions regarding the TGA limiting herbs such as Wild Cherry Bark and Amygdalin.

NTREAP –there has been slow progression with naturopathy and herbal medicine nearing final review, hopefully this is finalised in 2024.

The CMA hosted Nutrition Week from 26th July this year. A big thank you to Nadia, Jackie and student representatives Felicity Jobling and Karen van Esveld for assisting with creating the social media campaign to highlight “Food as Medicine”. This showcased how our members utilise nutrition in their practice, career highlights, and recipe sharing. Next year we hope to highlight this further with interactive events for members and to gain more traction on our social media platforms.

Throughout 2023 we’ve hosted several webinars by skilled practitioners – providing free CPE points for members. This really is an asset for our members during these financially challenging times – being one of the minority of associations how still offering this for free. A huge thank you to Greg for hosting a couple of these once again, and especially for our tech wizard Vince for setting these up and hosting them. I honestly really appreciate you both for your skills and knowledge...and the time you take to deliver these opportunities for our members. Planning has already begun for the year ahead.

Earlier this year, Tammy applied for a Qld small business grant, which we were lucky to receive \$5000 to use towards our new website. This is ready to go ‘live’! A huge “thank you” to all the Board for the reviews and input into the design. I’d especially like to thank Jackie, Roberta, Vincent and Tammy for ensuring our original website information was transferred and then ‘reinvigorated’ into a cleaner, user-friendly website. Members will be able to upload CPE, insurance, applications etc all within a functional layout, which will also benefit both the public and our advertisers. This will be a fantastic asset and resource for our members moving forward.

This year there was seen an unexpected change for the CMA family, with the resignation of Tammy after her 18yrs of dedication to the CMA as the Federal and Administration Manager. Tammy assisted the CMA to grow and become one of the ‘big 3’ associations for complementary medicine over recent years – I thank her for her service and energy over the years. Brad resigned soon after this in July, leaving Tracy needing to learn the ropes very quickly. Thankfully Vikki returned on a casual basis to assist Tracy, especially with membership reinstatements and private health fund updates. I’d like to thank my ‘righthand man’ Vince for all the hours, and skill he has used to help pull us through the darkness. The three of us have had to learn quite a lot about how the CMA runs, often remotely. It has not been easy...though somehow, we’ve managed to swim our way through the last few months. Though we had some memberships were affected during this time – I am pleased to say we were able to effectively assist many reinstatements.

As our directors personal and business lives change, so does their ability to dedicate the voluntary time needed to support the Board and CMA members to full capacity. Unfortunately, we saw Shenaz, Jackie and Roberta, resign. I thank them all for the positive energy and input they gave to us all. I look forward to their possible future support in other ways, and welcoming new Board members to join us.

Nadia was able to meet students at the Brisbane Endeavour campus in July again this year. Her ongoing dedication to support our student members and interest in the education quality does not go unnoticed. This week the Board have also visited Endeavour and SCU Gold Coast campuses to check out their new student clinic environments. We envisage these interactions to lead to growth in the student member numbers, and potentially our Full Member numbers in time.

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, plus supporting me during these changing times. We all have put in a lot of time and energy into discussions and decisions to support our members and our profession. Thank you all for your support once again in another massive year of change. I really do look forward to a brighter 2024.

Kristy Hollis

President