

National President's Report 2010 AGM.



AAPM continues to gain respect and recognition as the national peak professional organisation representing practice managers and practice management. We need only look back over the past three years to our 2007 National Conference to gain an insight into why this has occurred. It was there that our (to be appointed) Executive Officer attended his first meeting with the Board and National Conference. Moving from a contracted secretariat, Dean commenced working out of his home office with the aim to move to appropriate rented offices.

Three years later AAPM has a CEO (Dean), a further 3 staff (Danielle, Charles and Helen), a new Constitution, significant representation on numerous advisory committees to government and the health sector, a growing membership, an increasing number of alliance partners and our own premises – AAPM House.

When you reflect on these accomplishments and the time frame in which they have been realised, AAPM should be proud of the magnitude of such achievements. The only way AAPM could have achieved such success is due to the unselfish efforts of those members who had devoted and volunteered so much time and energy in their belief of what AAPM could become.

The continued efforts by numerous members ensure that AAPM will continue to grow and gain further respect. All members should be aware that apart from our staff NO Director, State Committee member or AAPM committee representative receive any form of remuneration; the energies, efforts and time are voluntary. A sincere thank you those members.

Key Achievements & Milestones throughout the 2010 year have included –

CEO.

AAPM has secured the services of our CEO, Dean Barton-Smith, through to 2014. Dean has devoted considerable energies to AAPM and the promotion of AAPM. Benefits to the Board and AAPM have been significant with a change from the previous structure whereby Director's commitment have been largely devoted to operational issues.

Head Office – AAPM House.

AAPM recently celebrated the 1st anniversary of AAPM House. To have our own premises / national base has provided significant benefits to staff and it should not be underestimated how having AAPM House has added substantial credibility to AAPM across numerous alliance partners, government representatives and other professional organisations.

The support provided to members, Directors, State Committees and Dean is a credit to our team: Danielle and Charles. I have no doubt that our newest member Helen, will further enhance AAPM and Head Office's service.

National Board.

With operational issues now addressed by Head Office, Directors have been able to adopt a far greater strategic approach to AAPM. I believe this has allowed for key issues to be identified and appropriate plans developed to ensure the ultimate goals are achieved. Each Director has also been assigned a "portfolio" so as to focus on key issues. These portfolios include – education, specialist and allied health, indigenous health and alliance partners.

As part of the strategic development, the Board has held two planning sessions with State Branch Presidents. This has provided a valuable forum whereby Board strategies can be clearly conveyed to State Branches whilst also providing the Directors with state feedback on key issues. These forums have also enhanced the relationships between the states, Head Office and the Board. This again reflects the developing maturity of the AAPM as a truly national organisation.

With the establishment of key infrastructure, AAPM is in a position to take advantage of the “groundwork” undertaken over the past few years. There is no doubt that with the consolidated dedication and individual talents of each of the Directors, AAPM will prosper and our members will reap the rewards.

Alliance Partners.

AAPM continues to formalise agreements with key strategic partners. The Board has identified key partners that will co-operatively assist and develop the recognition of practice managers as well as those partners who are able to provide direct benefits to individual members. A key strategy identified has been to ensure all members and potential members are aware of our partners and the benefits they can deliver as part of AAPM membership. A number of new partners secured throughout the year will be attending the 2010 Conference.

Education.

Providing education to practice managers remains one of AAPM’s core principles. Results from the 2009 Membership survey reinforce the value and the Board is undertaking a comprehensive review of educational activities across the association. Key components include the targeting of educational activities surrounding the 8 core responsibilities of a practice manager, the updating of AAPM website, utilisation of available technologies to improve access to education to practice managers regardless of location and the introduction of on-line learning modules and educational activities. This is an exciting project and is hoped that components will begin to become available during 2011.

AAPM Representation.

As previously mentioned AAPM representatives are being increasingly sought on advisory committees and task forces. The diversity of AAPM representation was outlined in the September edition of our national journal.

Since that time a further 4 practice managers have been invited to join NEHTA advisory panels as Clinical Leads. This is a significant acknowledgement of how critical practice managers will be in Australia’s health reform and implementation surrounding e-Health; such roles have previously been restricted to clinical personnel.

Journal.

This publication continues to provide a high quality presentation and content. AAPM is fortunate to retain our editor of many years Marilyn Bitomsky who is supported by an active and enthusiastic editorial task force.

Membership.

Membership continues to increase however our challenge is to establish AAPM as the professional organisation that all practice managers want to join. The Board’s aim is to ensure that membership provides significant professional benefits to the practice manager; a combination of professional support, relevant topical education, appropriate advocacy to government and a range of individual member benefits.

A key initiative for the coming year is to establish and provide members with an Industrial Relations / Advice service. The Board is in discussions with a national organisation that would be able to provide such a service. With the introduction of Federal Awards and the importance of HR management this would be a significant benefit to members; dedicated to AAPM for AAPM.

State Branches.

Whilst the Board is responsible for national development, it is the untiring efforts of State Branch committee members that deliver the AAPM message to members within their state. The diversity of activities provided to members reflects one of AAPM's key strengths – “a national practice manager network”.

The Board hope that the role of Head Office will expand so as to be able to provide coordinated administrative support to all states; not only does this provide focused AAPM support staff but also allows for a centrally based resource centre that will enhance sharing of and access to AAPM resources.

Working Parties.

Representative of a modern organisation, AAPM has established a number of project specific working parties. These working parties comprise members who have a special interest in the project and by harnessing the skills of our members I believe we are starting to utilise the enormous knowledge base that our membership possess.

The establishment of a Specialist & Allied Health Working Party was as a result of recommendations from the Convocation session held at the 2009 National Conference.

I would like to reiterate my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the continuing success of AAPM over the past 12 months. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges and responsibilities of the National Presidency and look forward to the coming year and the success that will no doubt be achieved by AAPM.



Brett McPherson. FAAPM
National President.