

## AGM 2006 President's Report

The 2005 PACCOA conference held in Canberra was a great success and feedback from members was very positive. The annual conferences have become a very valuable learning experience for PACCOA members. The networking enjoyed by interstate and overseas colleagues and guests is rewarding. The Canberra conference was no exception promoting all of the above through great presentations and atmosphere. Thank you to Christine Lancaster, the ACT Delegate and all of the conference organisers who worked tirelessly to make the conference a success. Thank you to all PACCOA members who contributed to the conference as presenters. The strength of the conference is the PACCOA member's involvement through the papers presented and workshops conducted.

Thank you to all of the PACCOA members who attended the Annual General Meeting held at the Canberra conference. This year a number of new delegates joined the PACCOA executive and I thank them for volunteering their time to represent their state and territory colleagues. Also I would like to acknowledge the work of the former PACCOA Executive members and in particular thank two of the long term members; Brian Norman (former President and NSW Delegate) and Tanya Barnes (former Secretary and Victorian Delegate) for their dedication and commitment.

The PACCOA Executive have met regularly by telephone conferencing (25 August 2005, 22 September 2005, 17 November 2005, 21 December 2005 and 6 February 2006) and a meeting in Sydney on 19 & 20 October 2005. Some of the issues discussed have included; National Awards, NSW Department restructure, updating the PACCOA website, Senate inquiry on Mental Health issues, PACCOA Newsletter and the organisation of the 2006 Sydney conference.

As President of PACCOA, I would like to thank all of the year's delegates and sub delegates for raising the profile of PACCOA in their state and territory. In particular I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Alicia Murphy (SA on maternity leave), Desi Poursanidis (Vic) and Christine Lancaster (ACT) who have acted as PACCOA Secretary at various times throughout the year. Also Wayne Voak (WA) has done a fantastic job as PACCOA Treasurer and with the assistance of Kevin Broomhall (Tas) has audited all of the previous and current years financial reports which are now on the PACCOA website. Kevin Broomhall has rejuvenated the PACCOA website and kept it up to date, his efforts are greatly appreciated. The NSW delegates (Glenda Milne & Julie Webber) have put in a lot of effort towards this years conference. I wish to thank all of this years this years PACCOA Executive including Jay Lequertier (Qld) and Stephen Muller (SA) as part of the Conference Organising Committee. Marion Lofthouse (PACCOA Life Member) and Brian Norman along with Christine Lancaster planned the PACCOA National Awards. I thank them for their ideas, time and results. Also I wish to acknowledge the work of Dale Kift for her work in researching and writing the submission to the Senate Select Committee in Mental Health in July 2005 and pay tribute to her for her ongoing work in this field. Thank you to all PACCOA members who contributed to the PACCOA Newsletter and submitted articles and good news stories through your state or territory delegate. We look forward to more of these.

Any ideas from PACCOA members regarding the Annual Conferences would be greatly appreciated by PACCOA Executive. Predicting conference attendance in advance and receiving registrations late presents difficulties regarding venue, catering and associated costs.

Also I would encourage all members to talk to their colleagues about joining PACCOA and being part of a representative professional association. PACCOA is about making a difference to the quality of justice in society and enhancing practice standards thanks to your efforts, hard work and commitment.

Graeme Pearce  
PACCOA President & NT Delegate.  
7 October 2006.