



Parkinson's Australia

Annual Report 2011

Parkinson's Australia Annual Report 2010/2011

Vision – A nation without Parkinson's

Mission – Parkinson's Australia seeks to influence governments at all levels to provide a policy environment that is responsive to the needs of all people affected by Parkinson's, and their service providers.

Our Business – To facilitate research to find a cure for Parkinson's, to advocate and lobby to raise awareness of the significant cost of the condition in social and economic terms, to build partnerships with relevant bodies to enhance our effectiveness and to provide and share information that educates health professionals, politicians and the public about Parkinson's.

Patron

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, AC
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Council Members 2010/2011

Kate Brown, President
Helen Connor-Kendray, Vice President
John Bird, Treasurer
John McDonald
Jan Creswell (from November 2010)
John Silk
John Power (from January 2011)
Roger Norton (until November 2010)
Irene Gibbons (until January 2011)

CEO

Daryl Smeaton (from March 2011)
Norman Marshall (until October 2010)

Member Organisations

Parkinson's New South Wales
Parkinson's Victoria
Parkinson's Queensland
Parkinson's Western Australia
Parkinson's South Australia
Parkinson's Tasmania
Parkinson's Australian Capital Territory

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President's Report

2010/2011 has been a year of change for Parkinson's Australia. I was honoured to take the chair at the Annual General Meeting held in Hobart, in November 2010. At that meeting Roger Norton retired from Council. Roger was replaced on Parkinson's Australia by Jan Creswell, a former National Manager of CRS Australia (the business arm of the Commonwealth vocational rehabilitation program), senior advisor with the National Graduate School of Management and, more recently, a researcher into multinational companies which culminated in a PhD, focusing on corporate strategy, from ANU.

In early January, Irene Gibbons, the South Australian representative on the Council, and a previous President, tendered her resignation due to family commitments. Irene was replaced by Associate Professor John Power, President of Parkinson's SA. John is a Senior Lecturer in Human Physiology at the Flinders University and conducts research at the Parkinson's and Alzheimer Disease Laboratory of the Flinders Neuroscience Centre.

Without doubt, we would not be in the positive position we are today, if we had not had the benefit of the outcomes Jan Creswell delivered during late 2010 and early 2011. My sincere thanks to Jan for the dedication and skill she contributed during that period. As a result of her efforts in maintaining contact with our members and supporters, while streamlining the administrative procedures, we not only kept the office open, but commenced new projects.

On Tuesday 15 March 2011, our new CEO, Daryl Smeaton commenced. He has brought to our organisation his considerable experience in the Federal Public Service, as well as experience in the not-for-profit sector, and much enthusiasm.

This year we have been fortunate to receive several donations, including a bequest from the wife of a former Lord Mayor of Darwin, and a distribution from a performance of the David Williamson play, Emerald City, that was produced by the CorriLee Foundation. Our involvement in the latter event resulted from the interest in our work from soprano Ali McGregor.

One of the outcomes achieved during Jan Creswell's time as Acting CEO was the re-establishment of the Federal Parliamentary Friends of Parkinson's Group under the new, tighter rules implemented late in 2010. The group is co-convened by Senator Carol Brown, Labor Senator for Tasmania, with Mrs Joanna Gash MP, the Member for Gilmore as co-convenor. There are now over 20 members with all parties represented. The primary objective of the group is to support the work of Parkinson's Australia in improving the Parliamentary support for services, research and awareness programs to improve the quality of life of people living with Parkinson's.

This Group, in collaboration with Parkinson's Australia, on 1 March 2011, hosted the launch of a set of DVDs on Deep Brain Stimulation in Parliament House. Associate Professor Bittar, who arranged the production of the DVDs, spoke about the latest findings on DBS in relation to Parkinson's and Depression. Both Senator Brown and the Shadow Minister for Health, The Hon. Peter Dutton MP, spoke. We were pleased with the large attendance, one of the biggest events of this nature ever held.

During the early part of 2011, we made a number of submissions, as part of the Neurological Alliance of Australia, to the Productivity Commission, including:

Support for the introduction of a national disability care and support scheme; an insurance-based mechanism that has the potential to provide support for many people with Parkinson's. Since our submission, the National Disability Insurance Scheme has achieved much positive publicity, so we are hopeful of implementation.

Another submission, focussed on the Commission's draft report on Caring for Older Australians, recommended that disease specific groups, such as Parkinson's, be recognised as having specific needs and that aged care community services reflect the person-centred services wanted by consumers and currently provided in the United Kingdom (such as neurological nurses to assist people with Parkinson's to manage their condition at home for as long as possible).

The Neurological Alliance Australia (NAA) was formed late in 2010 and launched during the first quarter of 2011. We are a member of this alliance of not-for-profit peak national organisations representing adults and children living with progressive neurological and neuromuscular diseases in Australia. With the active support of Parkinson's Australia, the Alliance was established to promote improved quality of life, coordinated services and greater research investment. Other members of NAA include: Alzheimer's Australia, Huntington's Disease Australia, Muscular Dystrophy Foundation Australia, MND Australia, Friedrich's Ataxia Australia, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Australia and Multiple Sclerosis Australia.

Council has met twice this year by teleconference and twice face to face; in Hobart and Canberra. At the face to face meeting in Canberra in April, in which all state CEOs also participated, the Strategic Directions of the organisation were reviewed and agreed. The new Directions were endorsed at the June meeting and have been circulated to all state members.

My thanks to all Council members for their support and advice during the year, and to the CEOs of all state member organisations for their contributions of intellect and creativity. Without their collaboration this organisation would not be able to deliver.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

I took up the role of Chief Executive on 15 March 2011. My predecessor was Norman Marshall, who resigned in October 2010. I would like especially to acknowledge the contribution of Jan Creswell, who performed the role of acting CEO from December 2010 until I started. She made my transition into the job easier than it might have been and I thank her for the ongoing support she provides as the CEO of Parkinson's ACT and as a PA Council member.

Council met in Canberra in April and, with the State and Territory CEOs, reviewed the PA Strategic Plan. The outcome of that work was a new Strategic Directions document, a copy of which is attached to this report. The exercise was very helpful to my learning about the organisation.

In the first three months, I gained a very good understanding of the Neurological Nurse Educator Trial in the Shoalhaven and the GP Online program hosted by PriMed. I acknowledge the significant contribution of John Silk, the Council member from New South Wales and Miriam Dixon, the CEO of Parkinson's NSW, to the success of these projects, which were made possible by grant funding from the Australian Government, through the Department of Health and Ageing. Both projects have been successful in meeting the objectives that Parkinson's Australia had set for them. In particular, the Shoalhaven trial will provide valuable data to support our ongoing requests for Federal funding of specialist Parkinson's nurses across Australia.

To date, more than 500 health professionals have accessed the GP Online Program and the evaluation of that use has been overwhelmingly positive.

Council also agreed that it was time to update the 2007 Access Economics review "Living with Parkinson's Disease." With the generous support of Abbott, Parkinson's Australia engaged Deloitte Access Economics to undertake the update in May 2011. President Kate Brown and I extensively briefed the project team. A draft report is expected in August 2011, with a final report to be released in October.

As part of getting to know PA, I have begun a program of visiting the member organisations. I met with the Board and CEO of Parkinson's NSW in June. I will visit Victoria and Queensland in August. I hope to meet all of the members during the next year.

I have also joined the planning committee for the Parkinson's Australia National Conference to be held in Brisbane in July 2012. My congratulations to John Bird, the PA Treasurer, and the PQld CEO, Patrick Bulman, for the excellent planning work they are doing.

My thanks to Kate Brown and the PA Council for their warm and friendly support.

Financials

The Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011 will be considered at the August Council meeting and will be audited. They will be presented at the Annual General meeting to be held in Canberra on 16 November 2011 for approval.

Life Members

Peter Dawkins

Our Supporters

Bequests

Estate of Noreen Eugenie Brown - \$100,000.00

Individual donors \$2000+

Hunter Hall International

Mr Maxwell Bulloch

There were 177 other individual donors

In Memorial

Rod Irwin

Richard Stanton

Arthur John (Mick) Doggett

Audrey Jean Darling

Ron Miller

Les Brown

Prudence Ona Sutherland

John Petrusma

Bruce Henry Colyer

Faye Nesire

Mary Benson

Mr Giannasca

David O'Loughlin

Mr Boothroyd

Evelyn Wallace-Mitchell

Thomas Tolhurst

Mr Petersen

Eva Esterhazy

Peter Copleman

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Malcolm Bell
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