



# Paramedics Australasia

## ACT Chapter

Welcome to the first newsletter of Paramedics Australasia  
ACT Chapter

### We have a new name

On a National level, the recent big event for us has been changing our name from ACAP to Paramedics Australasia LTD. The new name came into effect on February 26, 2011 following a secret ballot at an extraordinary general meeting.

Migration from the old to the new name will occur over the next few months, including corporate literature, logo and letterhead. The website has already been updated along with many email addresses. We will publish more information in regards to email and web addresses as they become available. Please note all the old email addresses will continue to work in addition to the new ones.

### Introducing the committee

Chair	David Tassicker
Secretary	Darren Penny
Treasurer	Justine Denton
Education	Dennis Mungoven
General Members	Josh Mundy
	Sally Jaggard
	Michael Mcdermott
	Rhian Blackwell

ACT National Director

Suren Denorian

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# ACT Chapter Happenings

The last 10 months have been busy for the ACT Chapter.

A new Committee has been settling in after being elected at the AGM in May 2010

Some key Portfolios have changed.

Suren Denorain has been elected as the ACT National Director and also remains as a Committee Member. The Committee thanks the outgoing Director, Doug Wright, for his work over the recent years, particularly his contribution to *Response*.

David Tassicker was subsequently elected to the Chairs' position.

Suren Denorain, as National Director, is chairing the sub-committees for writing the National Paramedic Curriculum and also for Special Operations / Rescue.

Darren Penny, Secretary, is keeping us organised. Darren is also the local contact for any membership enquiries.

Justine Denton, Treasurer, is keeping our books very much in order. She has just completed the draft ACT Chapter budget for 2011-12 and is also completing the wind up of the old Chapter structure.

Josh Mundy is keeping us current with technology. We are videoing all the CMEs all will shortly be making them available online. He has also established a central file sharing repository for all Committee Members.

Dennis Mungoven has just agreed to become the Education Coordinator.

Sally Jaggard is the Conference 2013 liaison and has been busy identifying potential Conference venues.

Michael McDermott is the student Paramedic liaison.

Rhian Blackwell is the Paramedics Australasia / College of Emergency Nursing liaison. He is also responsible for the disaster exercise being planned for November.

A major focus of the Committee has been our successful series of Continuing Medical Education Programs. These are held on the last Thursday of each month (excluding December). Our thanks go to the John James Foundation and the ACT Ambulance Service for the support of this program. Over the last 12 months, some hundreds of participants have enjoyed a broad range of stimulating lectures from eminent speakers.

The Committee is planning to continue and expand the ongoing education program this year. We are planning to add one and two day workshops to the current program, a disaster exercise in November and add more social functions to the calendar. We also anticipate developing programs in cooperation with PA NSW Chapter and the College of Emergency Nursing Australasia.

The Committee has also invested in audio visual equipment. In particular, a video camera has been purchased to record the CMEs with the intent to make these available online. In the background, the surprising amount of dry administrative work continues. This includes the ongoing work to wind up the previous incorporated body into the National structure.

Our Membership database has been updated with many 'non-financial' members being bought back in to the fold.

Happily, our Membership has grown by nearly 20% since May 2010.

Ten ACT Members were sponsored to attend the National Conference in Perth. Again, thanks goes to ACT Ambulance Service for sponsoring travel and accommodation for two Members to enjoy the Conference.

The ACT Chapter has offered to host the 2013 National Conference, an offer that has been accepted by the National Committee. This will coincide with the centenary of Canberra.

# Paramedic Registration

By David Tassicker - Chairperson

## Registration

The next major development in our push for Registration is unfolding as we speak. I have included a brief summary of the process here. While a lot of work has been done by ACAP over the last few years, the next few months will be crucial to summarise and formalise our position. A separate communication will be coming out to all ACT Members shortly, with a more extensive summary and explanation of the process and accompanying documentation that has already been produced. A separate portal on the Paramedics Australasia website is being created to act as a central resource.

This is a watershed moment in the evolution as Paramedics as a profession. I strongly encourage all Members to become familiar with the process and the issues. Your thoughts and input will be gratefully received.

## Registration Summary

The Australian Health Ministers Advisory Council (AHMAC) has commenced a review of unregulated (self regulated) health practitioners (SRHP) . This includes Paramedics. The review stems from a concern that the SRHP may be causing harm to the public, which some reports have indicated.

There are 3 streams or groups of practitioners being examined in this review.

Stream 1      Registration is not anywhere on the horizon

Stream 2      There is some consideration that registration might possibly be required in the distant future. Much work needs to be done to examine or progress this group towards registration, if it ever happens at all. Other avenues, aside from registration, would be used to regulate Stream 1 and 2 practitioners.

Stream 2 assessment has been delegated to the Victorian Department of Health

Stream 3      Registration is generally acknowledged as being desirable. Some more work needs to be done to validate the position.

Paramedics are in Stream 3.

Stream 3 assessment has been delegated to the West Australian Department of Health.

Coming soon to a Computer near

**YOU**

Videos of ACT Chapters CME nights

Stream 2 is currently very active. As part of the process, written submissions have recently been invited from interested parties. In addition, a task force is conducting a series of forums in major Australian cities over the current fortnight. PA has become involved in the Stream 2 process;

- 1) to provide ongoing input and lobbying for our registration position and
- 2) as a practice dry run for the Stream 3 round which be occurring over the next couple of months. The Stream 3 process will be directly addressing the Paramedic group in great detail.

This input erupted about 2 weeks ago, and there has been a deluge of emails, teleconferences and mountains of reports to digest. The main PA representatives are the National Board Directors and the Chapter Chairs. The overall registration push is being led by PA consultant Ray Bange.

I attended the Stream 2 forum in Canberra last week.

### **In the broader context;**

**For Registration to be considered, the AHMAC requires 6 criteria to be fulfilled. These are;**

#### *Criterion 1 - Relevance to a Health Ministry*

Is it appropriate for Health Ministers to exercise responsibility for regulating the occupation in question, or does the occupation more appropriately fall within the domain of another Ministry?

#### *Criterion 2 - Risk of Harm*

Do the activities of the occupation pose a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of the public?

#### *Criterion 3 - Alternative Regulatory Mechanisms*

Do existing regulatory or other mechanisms fail to address health and safety issues?

#### *Criterion 4 – Feasibility of regulation*

Is regulation possible to implement for the occupation in question?

The members of the profession must call upon a distinctive, systematic body of knowledge in assessing, treating or serving their patients/clients. The core activities performed by paramedics must be discernible as a clear and integrated whole and must be broadly accepted as such within the profession.

*Criterion 5 – Ability to favour the public interest*

Is regulation practical to implement for the occupation in question?

*Criterion 6: - Serving the public interest*

Do the benefits to the public of regulation clearly outweigh the potential negative impact of such regulation?

**The 2 major items that will affect the Paramedic push for Registration are;**

**1) *Criteria 2 Risk of harm Do the activities of the occupation pose a significant risk of harm to the health and safety of the public?***

Yes, the activities of a Paramedic, if poorly executed, can pose a significant threat to public health and safety. Examples of adverse events are being sought to validate this argument.

**2) *We need to finally define what a Paramedic is. A definition has been dabbled with for decades. But unless we can very clearly identify ourselves as a discreet group of practitioners, the health Ministers will not consider us.***

## **We need to define what a Paramedic is !!**

Are you a member of Paramedics Australasia Ltd ??

If the answer is NO consider joining up

Benefits include: access to regular education events (including online packages), social events (coming soon), Response Magazine .

For info on how to join go: to [www.paramedics.org.au](http://www.paramedics.org.au)

If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter please contact us

[Secretary@act.acap.org.au](mailto:Secretary@act.acap.org.au)

Paramedics Australasia  
ACT Chapter  
CME  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011  
John James Hospital  
Clinical Services Building

Details TBA

