

## **COMBINED EXECUTIVE OFFICER/DIRECTOR OF NURSING & CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2003 - 04**

Ladies and gentleman we have pleasure in presenting to you the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Report of the Meningie & Districts Memorial Hospital & Health Services Inc.

The past year has again presented the Health Service with a range of challenges to overcome while endeavouring to deliver our service to the Community we serve. The high workload experienced by all service providers has tested the ability of our staff and our service to find new and innovative ways to meet the community needs. We congratulate all the staff for the way in which they have met these challenges and maintained the standard for which the Health Service is known.

Once again the activity levels, and the cost pressures associated with them left the hospital with an unfavourable budget position at the end of the financial year. However with the co-operation of the medical, nursing and ancillary staff a number of strategies have been introduced to address some of our difficulties and place us in a better position to face the coming year. The support of the Region has also been invaluable in meeting our end of financial year commitments.

As in past years the Coonalpyn Downs Community Health Service has achieved its budget while continuing to deliver a high standard of care to its Communities.

The year has seen a number of major changes to our health system. The Generational Health Review continues to impact on the way we do business and in the coming months the Community will see and hear about major changes to the Region and funding structure which will change the way health care is delivered throughout the State. The Community will continue to be kept informed through its Board Members, articles in the Lakelander and school Newsletters.

### **Aged Care**

Our Aged Care Facility has continued to provide excellent care to our residents. The staff involved in this arm of our Health Service strives to find innovative ways to enhance the quality of life of our elder community members. In August this year the Hills Mallee Southern Regional Aged Care Facility had a "support visit" from the Aged Care Agency. The report was favourable and we continue to address areas for improvement towards our next Aged Care Accreditation in 2006.

### **Community Health**

The team who deliver our services to the Community have remained committed and resourceful as they apply for grants and other funding to support the excellent work and standards they already achieve.

### **Aboriginal Health**

Our team of Aboriginal Health Workers Team has expanded over the past year and now includes Raukkan as part of its service. We are delighted to be able to provide this service and to support the Raukkan Aboriginal Health Worker within our team.

**Acute Services**

We have seen a number of staff changes in the Nursing Service and at the moment we have a very dedicated team to deliver care to our patients. The Ancillary and Administrative staff continue to support the Health Service with the same commitment and loyalty which is so evident in a small community.

This report gives us the opportunity to express publicly what we all feel daily, our deep appreciation of all our external support services. The Police, the Ambulance Officers, the SES, CFS, our Ministers, the Doctors and their staff at the Medical Center, our volunteers, the local businesses and of course the community.

Special mention must go to the Hospital Auxiliary, who works tirelessly to support the organisation. The equipment purchased is invaluable and the hours spent fund raising are extremely long. We are all most grateful.

The future holds many challenges for us all, in terms of Health Service delivery and we must all be aware that the service delivered in the past will not necessarily “look” the same as future service delivery. The focus on Primary Health Care will challenge us to rethink our work practices. The re-structure of our State Health System will require us to involve ourselves in new and different partnerships with other health providers. We will continue to pursue our current alliances and with the continued support of the staff and the community we will endeavour to deliver the same standard of care that the Health Service has always achieved.

Judi King  
Chairman of the Board

Cate Curry R.N., Dip N.A., MMgt.  
Executive Officer/Director of Nursing