

VHA Board of Directors Update

23 October 2014

The Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Healthcare Association was held on 10 October 2014 at the Hilton on the Park, East Melbourne. The following advice is provided in relation to the outcome of the election for positions on the VHA Board of Directors, and to confirm the newly appointed officeholders for the organisation.

The call for nominations to the vacant positions on the VHA Board of Directors was distributed in July 2014. The four vacant director positions advised to members were:

Director Category	Term	Nominees
Community Health Service, Chief Executive	Three years	Three nominees
Regional Health Service, Chief Executive	Three years	One nominee
Rural Health Service, Board Member	Three years	One nominee
Metropolitan Health Service, Senior Executive	One year	No nominees

For the purpose of the election for the Community Health Service Chief Executive category, a confidential postal ballot was conducted to determine an eligible candidate to recommend to members at the VHA Annual General Meeting for endorsement as a director of the VHA Board.

Details of the election outcome for each of the five vacant director positions are as follows:

(i) Community Health Service, Chief Executive Representative

There were three nominations for this category:

- Damian Ferrie (Inner South Community Health Service)
- Suzanne Miller (Nexus Primary Health)
- Terry O'Bryan (ISIS Primary Care Limited)

The Returning Officer provided advice that 75 eligible ballots had been received, and that Damian Ferrie, Inner South Community Health Service, was the successful candidate following the ballot process. Damian Ferrie was elected by resolution of members to the VHA Board of Directors for a term of three years.

We note and thank all nominees for their interest in the position.

(ii) Regional Health Service, Chief Executive Representative

Peter Craighead (Latrobe Regional Hospital) was the only nominee for this position, and was elected by resolution of members to the VHA Board of Directors for a term of three years.

(iii) Rural Health Service, Board Member Representative

Janette McCabe (Rural Northwest Health) was the only nominee for this position, and was elected by resolution of members to the VHA Board of Directors for a term of three years.

(iv) Metropolitan Health Service, Senior Executive Representative

There were no nominations received for this position, resulting in a casual vacancy.

In early October, we had an expression of interest from an eligible metropolitan health service representative in this casual vacancy position. We are pleased to advise that the VHA Board of Directors at its meeting on 8 October 2014 endorsed the appointment of Dr Sue Matthews, Chief Executive of the Royal Women's Hospital, to the casual vacancy position with effect from 13 October 2014 to the next general meeting of the VHA, likely to be October 2015.

In addition to the above directors, the VHA is served by four other representative directors:

- Joanne Booth, Gippsland Lakes Community Health (Community Health Service Board Member representative – term expires in 2016)
- Nancy Hogan, Peninsula Health (Metropolitan Health Service Board Member Representative – term expires in 2016)
- John Anderson, West Gippsland Healthcare Group (Regional Health Service Board Member Representative – term expires in 2015)
- Trevor Adem, Beaufort & Skipton Health Service (Rural Health Service CEO representative – term expires in 2016)

The VHA Board also has three independent directors. The independent directors are appointed to the VHA Board for their specific skills and expertise and in balance with the skills of the representative directors.

The independent directors are:

- Gary Thomas (term expires in October 2016)
- Professor Sandra Leggat (term expires in July 2016)
- Anthony Graham (appointed in a transitioning capacity, term expires in October 2015)

Retiring Directors

With this update, it is appropriate to acknowledge the retirement from the Board of two long-serving directors.

Clem Furphy has retired from the Board after seven years as a director, including six years as Deputy Chair. Initially appointed as a Regional Health representative, Clem has served as an independent director for the past three years.

Ben Leigh has retired from the Board, having represented the VHA's community health members for more than seven years.

Both directors joined the VHA Board at a time of intense growth and transformation for the organisation. Their very sound governance knowledge has been invaluable during this period. Clem and Ben have always put our members' best interests first and their advice at the Board table has been well-considered and greatly valued. They have both contributed generously of their time, having been involved in multiple Board Committees, working parties and delegations to meet with government and ministerial representatives.



Officeholder Appointments

Chair

As previously advised to members, Gary Thomas is the new Chair of the VHA with effect from 10 October 2014. This appointment followed Anthony Graham's decision to stand down as Chair.

The Board's decision to appoint Gary was based on his years of experience on the VHA Board, his effective chairmanship of the VHA Audit and Risk Committee, his broader governance experience, and his willingness to commit the time required of this leadership role. Gary has enjoyed a long standing and continuous involvement with the VHA since joining its Rural and Regional Council in the mid 1990s and was first appointed to the Board in October 2006.

Deputy Chair

With Clem Furphy's retirement from the Board, Nancy Hogan has been appointed Deputy Chair of the VHA, for a two-year term effective from 10 October 2014.

Nancy has served as the Metropolitan Health Service Board Member representative on the VHA Board since September 2011. She is also Chair of Peninsula Health.

In her time on the Board, Nancy has demonstrated a vast knowledge of Victoria's health sector, and a very strong awareness and comprehension of effective governance practice.

Outgoing Chair

We also take this opportunity to acknowledge Anthony Graham's service as Chair of the VHA since 2008. Anthony's involvement with the VHA has spanned over 12 years, in the first instance as a representative on the Rural and Regional Council, and then on the VHA Board for nine years, serving as Chair for the past six years.

As Chair, Anthony has led the organisation through a period of recovery and renewal, and has been a significant contributor to the current standing of the VHA as a dynamic and progressive near fully-subscribed member organisation with a robust and efficient governance structure. In addition to promoting the VHA's own optimal governance practices, as Chair Anthony has been committed to working to assist Victorian health agencies to improve their own governance structures and their Board performance.

We are pleased that Anthony is remaining on the VHA Board in a transitioning capacity for a further one year term as an independent director.

Our thanks are extended to members for participating in the election process and we look forward to another interesting and challenging year ahead.

For further information, please contact:

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