

CARPA AGM October 2020

Chair report

CARPA, the Central Australian Rural Practitioners Association, is an association of rural and remote health professionals supporting one another to improve service provision and health outcomes in various ways for nearly 40 years. In upholding this aim as I present this annual CARPA Chair report, I acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of the lands where we are and where work, and their elders, past and present.

CARPA's goal is a healthy remote Australian population.

Our mission: to contribute towards a culturally-safe, well-supported and reflective multi-disciplinary remote workforce.

In addressing the goal and mission I thank our management committee members: Lyn Byers secretary, Toby Speare treasurer, Liz Moore, Chris Perry, and Tony Lane. We've moved to online meetings like so many others during the COVID Pandemic, so see each other less but continue to meet monthly. I also thank Helen Phipps from CRANApus who provides administrative support.

CARPA's work has changed over the years, as the importance of rural health care has been recognised and the need for the specific roles and tasks for CARPA evolved. This year we have been involved in four undertakings: the Remote Primary Health Care Manuals Governance; conference sponsorship; the Vaccine Story project and support for action on Climate change.

1. Remote Primary Health Care Manuals governance

CARPA with Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (Congress), CRANApus (Council of Remote Area Nurses) and Flinders University are the Joint Venture Partners to the Remote Primary Health Care Manuals project. It is now over 3 years since publication of the 2017 editions, and a new project team has just been recruited, bringing new energy and vision which will be urgently needed with the next set of manuals scheduled to be published in April 2023.

CARPA receives half the profits from sale of each CARPA manual based on historical arrangements. We need to re-consider best funding arrangements for CARPA's goal, and relationship to the project.

2. Rural and remote health conference sponsorship, representations and promotions

From our legacy funds, CARPA has sponsored important national rural health conferences. However with the COVID pandemic conferences have been cancelled and we've not sponsored any in the past 12 months.

As an alternative we are strengthening our governance procedures and accountability and have formalised a system for providing grants. We look forward to sponsoring people for activities of their choice that meet aims shared with CARPA.

3. Vaccine story project:

Vaccine story is a 10 minute video describing the cold chain which ensures that vaccines are safely delivered to remote clinics. It was developed with a grant from Northern Territory Primary Health Network and available on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/338754911>. WE are now formally evaluating the video and project, and both Top End and Central Australian ethics committee have approved the research application.

4. Support for action on climate change

Recognising climate change as the major threat to remote health in Australia, CARPA has joined the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA).

CAHA oversaw development of an NT Election briefing on climate change and health, which may have contributed to some of the election debate. You can see the statement on our website.

We look forward to using our vast geographic scope for urgent mitigation and adaptation to the changing climate, promoting a healthy remote Australian population, and we've invited CEO of CAHA to speak at this meeting.

Once again I thank core group members for their support in all aspects of CARPA's work and activities. Please keep in touch through our website: <http://www.carpa.com.au/>.

Dr Rosalie Schultz
CARPA Chair
20th October 2020