

Annual General Meeting October 6th 2017

Presidents Report

Over the course of 2017 CoNSAVT has achieved the majority of its goals as set out in the strategic plan. Both education days were well attended, scholarships were awarded to members for research and professional development both national and international and the newsletter continues to provide the membership with interesting articles, updates of movements in the network as well as introducing a new element, profiling our committee members. We hope that this initiative will inspire members to join the committee and gain more of an insight into the people that represent the CoNSAVT membership.

This year I have attempted to keep the CoNSAVT membership abreast of the progression of the NDIS as it rolls out across Victoria in an attempt to assist members who will be working within a continence service that is going to deliver continence assessments as an NDIS provider. I think it is fair to say that as the NDIS rolls out, the issues that emerge are non-linear in nature and are full of challenges for all organisations that are working in this space.

To that end, I recently attended an Independent Pricing Review (IPR) which is assessing the NDIA's pricing strategy and approach. The IPR was commissioned in June 2017 in response to the issues raised following the NDIA's 2017-18 financial year pricing review, the participant and provider pathway review and provider submissions to the productivity commission. The IPR aims to assess NDIA's pricing strategy and approach and the suitability of current price levels for NDIS supports and services.

Provider submissions to the productivity commission and NDIA price review raised a number of key issues **Table 1**

Theme of the issue	Issue Raised
Base Prices	<p>Wage assumptions are conservative and it is difficult to hire quality employees at the rate specified</p> <p>The assumption for the utilisation of staff are difficult to achieve</p> <p>The provision for overheads is low and it is difficult to reduce costs down to that level</p>
Price Loading	<p>Remote price loadings don't sufficiently cover costs of services in these areas</p> <p>Price caps don't sufficiently cover costs of services for complex participants</p>
Other issues	<p>Providers incur new administrative costs to operate NDIS</p> <p>Providers absorbing the cost of transport.</p>

	<p>Current pricing levels inhibit the development of a skilled workforce (Training)</p> <p>The process by which NDIS sets prices is not transparent</p> <p>The NDIA should explore opportunities for outcome based pricing</p>
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The IPR is seeking feedback from all states and will compile their finding and present to the NDIA for consideration prior to the financial year 2018-19.

In addition to the IPR, CoNSAVT and CoNSA have written and submitted a paper to a number of key stakeholders including the Commonwealth and Victorian Health and Social Services Ministers, the CEO and deputy CEO NDIS, ANMF branch secretary and Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer that;

- Provides NDIA with a clear description of the role and benefit of a continence assessment by a Nurse Continence Specialist (NCS) in the context of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) Outcomes Framework for Assistive Technology & Consumables that help participants achieve their continence goals.
- Provide a clear argument to justify why CoNSA on behalf of NCS are seeking a price review and inclusion in the Therapeutic Supports line item

In other news the ANMF have moved across the road to beautiful new premises at 535 Elizabeth Street Melbourne. The new premises will offer a wide range of facilities, specific assistance for Special Interest Groups and onsite catering services.

Finally, I would like to thank both Christine Sumper CoNSA VT secretary and Steve Marburg CoNSAVT treasurer who are standing down from their committee positions at the end of this AGM. They have both held integral roles within the CoNSAVT committee, contributing many voluntary hours to ensure the legal documentation and the financial transactions meet all the SIG bylaws requirements as stated within the Associations Act. Aside from their professionalism, they have been wonderful companions, their humour and knowledge has enriched CoNSAVT and they will be missed.

I look forward to welcoming new members to the 2018 CoNSAVT committee and I hope that we get input from our members prior to our strategic planning meeting if they are unable to attend on November 7th 2017 so that we continue to provide the leadership and education that our members request and expect

Kind Regards

Lisa Wragg
President CoNSAVT

