

27 November, 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

New ACHS President and office bearers elected

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has elected a new President, Mr John Smith PSM. As a representative of the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association (AHHA) on the Council, Mr Smith has been an ACHS Board member since 2005, and was the elected Treasurer from 2009 - 2012. He has held the position of Vice President since 2011 and has also served as a Board member of ACHS International (ACHSI), a division of ACHS, since 2008. Based in Victoria, Mr Smith is the Chief Executive Officer of the West Wimmera Health Service, a position he has held for 31 years. Mr Smith replaced Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar who held the position of ACHS President since 2011.

Dr Len Notaras AM was elected ACHS Vice President and is a government (Northern Territory Health) representative on the Council. He has been a Board member since 2002 and also an ACHSI Board member since 2009.

Mr Stephen Walker, based in South Australia, retains the office of ACHS Treasurer, a post he has held since 2012. Mr Walker has been the Australian Private Hospitals Association's representative on the Council since 2006 and joined the Board in the same year. He is the Chief Executive Officer of St Andrew's Hospital, Adelaide.

ACHS Chief Executive Officer Dr Christine Dennis congratulated the office bearers and the Directors on their appointments and re-appointments.

"We are grateful for the work and dedication Adj Assoc Prof Linegar has given to this role over the last four years, and for her commitment to ensure ACHS remains the premier healthcare accreditation provider in Australia," Dr Dennis said.

"Mr Smith has had a long association with ACHS and we warmly congratulate him on his new position of ACHS President and look forward to working with him as we continue the Council's important work of strengthening safe, quality healthcare by continuously advancing standards and education nationally and internationally," she said.

Mr Smith said he was honoured to be appointed to this position. "I very much appreciate the responsibility that goes with it and the importance of healthcare accreditation in driving quality and safety," he said. "I am also very grateful to both Dr Notaras and Mr Walker for taking on these offices as well." he concluded.

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ACHS is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving quality in health care and is an approved provider of accreditation to a range Australian healthcare providers.

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