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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **New ACHS President and office bearers elected**

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has elected a new President, Professor Len Notaras AM. Formerly the ACHS Vice President, Professor Notaras will succeed the Presidency from Mr John Smith PSM.

Professor Notaras was elected ACHS Vice President in 2015 and is a government (Northern Territory Health) representative on the Council. He has been a Board member since 2002 as well as an ACHSI Board member since 2009.

“I am honoured to be the new President of ACHS which continues to have a distinguished role in delivering healthcare accreditation services to the Australian healthcare industry and overseas countries,” Dr Notaras said.

“On behalf of the Board of Directors I wish to extend our thanks to Mr Smith PSM for his work as President since 2015, as well as his previous roles as Vice President and Treasurer and for advancing the profile and reach of ACHS. Mr Smith has had a long association with ACHS and will continue as a Board member.” Dr Notaras said.

“Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar, as the representative of the Royal College of Nursing has accepted the position of Vice President. Adj Assoc Prof Linegar was formerly the ACHS President from 2011 – 2015.

Mr Stephen Walker, based in South Australia, continues as 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 on their new appointments.

“We are privileged to have a Board of Directors who are keen to drive the agenda for improving quality and safety in Health and ensure that Australia has a peak performing healthcare accreditation organisation representative of the healthcare industry,” Dr Dennis said.

#### **Media Information: ACHS Communications Manager, Ian McManus on 02 8218 2743**

*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.*