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MEDIA RELEASE

ACHS President and office bearers re - elected

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has re-elected its President, Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar for another year. Based in Tasmania, Professor Linegar is the representative of the Australian College of Nursing on the Council. She has been a member of the ACHS Board since 2004, and was elected as Vice President in 2008. Professor Linegar has been the Executive Director of Nursing, Midwifery and Care Redesign and Acting Manager Primary Health – Tasmanian Health organisation - North West since 2009, and has been a ACHS surveyor since 2005.

The ACHS Vice-President, Mr John Smith, PSM and the Treasurer, Mr Stephen Walker were also re-elected to their respective positions at the Annual General Meeting, held in Sydney. ACHS Chief Executive Brian Johnston congratulated Professor Linegar and all Directors on their re-appointments.

“We are delighted that Professor Linegar has been re-elected as President and will continue to build on the achievements of the last 12 months, completed during a period of significant industry change,” Mr Johnston said. “Specifically, we are aiming to capitalise on the success of our new EQulPNational program launched in September in response to the introduction of the new National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards and a more competitive market.”

“Through Professor Linegar’s leadership we are strengthening our market position as we deliver on our promise to ensure a seamless transition for all members to help them meet the new Standards in 2013,” he said.

Mr John Smith PSM, based in Victoria, was re-elected as ACHS Vice-President. Mr Smith has been the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association representative on the Council since 2006 and joined the Board in 2006. He is the Chief Executive Officer of the West Wimmera Health Service and previously held the post of ACHS Treasurer from 2007 to 2011.

Mr Stephen Walker, based in South Australia, was re-elected as Treasurer. Mr Walker has been the Australian Private Hospitals Association 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 councillor Dr Len Notaras, AM, from the Northern Territory was elected to the Board as a representative of Governments. He has previously been a Director from 2002- 2011.

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