



Presidents Report to AGM for FY 2020 /21

This Financial Year VCAI has achieved extraordinary positive outcomes despite the challenges thrown up by COVID19 and a catastrophe in Timor. We have continued improving the level of health in the veteran community. At the tactical level we've been doing this through pastoral care, peer support and holistic health education, for veterans and their families. At the strategic level we've achieved progress in promoting a shift to wellbeing in the DVA and other significant collaborators in Veteran's health. The services we have provided to veterans and their families are first class. We have a robust management framework with strong governance and financial accountability. We have a competent and collaborative staff team supported by numerous volunteers. The Timor Awakening Program, developed and delivered by Michael Stone has produced outstanding results. We are enabled by funding support from our major sponsors Bolton Clarke and RSL Qld and other donors. Most significantly, graduates of our programs are "paying it forward" in service in the veteran community, in funding Humanitarian Relief, and the Veterans Education Training Scheme (VETS- previously RIAK retreat) in Timor.

We delivered two Timor Awakening programs, and a Peer mentor development program, on the Gold Coast and supported the first humanitarian relief mission to reach Timor following the April flood and landslide catastrophe. We have had an average of 30 pastoral interventions every week in that same period. Approximately 450 Australian families now have significantly improved lives through Timor Awakening, let alone the thousands of Timorese veterans and their families we have touched. The English Language Institute and student and teacher accommodation at Same is fully functioning. We are making a positive difference in other people's lives not just our own. The long-term legacy of the VETS program is beyond our imagining. We have shown inspiration to veterans across Australia that THEY NOT ONLY CAN GET HEALTHIER BUT THEY CAN HELP OTHERS GET HEALTHIER.

On a strategic level, DVA have engaged us in contributing to their peer program and we await response to our bid to become a DVA peer support provider We have made submissions to the commission to Prevent Veterans Suicide, Defence Transition Authority and DVA on a range of Health and wellbeing initiatives, and been invited to appear before the Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide. Advocating and witnessing to systemic change from an illness focus to a wellness focus will be our biggest long-term contribution to Veterans and their families. The Bolton Clarke Veterans Family Toolbox we assisted in, continues to be seen by many thousands and is the most innovative Veteran health educational video.

All of this has only been possible through the generosity of many volunteers and donors, too many to mention here, but we must formally thank key members of our management team over the period in Col Ahern, Michael Stone, Michael Robson, Jack Robson, Mark Game and Kathryn Jackman. Michael Albrecht, Rowena Langan, Candice Carroll, Mick Lay, Scott Mc Andrew, Tony Irwin, Lavina Salter, Darryl Ryan and Katie Kilpatrick have provided key personal support to clients. We have been blessed by advice from our wide range of health consultants of every discipline, with special thanks to Dr John Barletta and Ms Chris Hully. Special thanks must go to Pat McIntosh, Katie Maloney, Emma Campbell, Des Prien, for unique contributions they have made. Mark Bowling from the Catholic Leader has facilitated excellent media coverage for us. Archbishop Mark Coleridge has given us his blessing and endorsement.

Thank you for your support and involvement. We are a caring association of "Good Samaritans". May God bless you for your compassion and concern.