

## Sydney South West GP Link Chair's End of Year Update 2020

Dear Sydney South West GP Link Members

A warm welcome to those that have been able to attend the Sydney South West GP link Annual General Meeting and I trust you have been keeping safe and well throughout these challenging and precarious times. 2020 has certainly been a turbulent year with devastating fires followed by flood and culminating in the Covid19 Pandemic with all the associated health and economic costs suffered by so many.

I would like to thank our board members for their commitment and work for the organisation supporting our Regional Practitioner population over the past 12 months.

I am grateful for the dedication and advocacy of

Dr Vinh Binh Lieu – Deputy Chair, representing Bankstown.

Dr Joshua Stephenson – Treasurer, representing Wollondilly.

Dr Jeffrey Forrest – representing, Camden.

Dr Alison Thorn – Secretary, representing Campbelltown.

Dr Michael Tam – representing, Fairfield.

Dr Sayeed Khan – representing, Liverpool.

Despite our uncertain and challenging past 12 months the board continues to be active with our work towards support and advocacy for our local GPs.

Current projects and activities include.

1. Support and disaster assistance for GPs affected by fire, flood and more recently Covid19.
2. Advocating on behalf of South West Sydney General Practice for ongoing Medicare telehealth initiatives.

We have lobbied for both the extension of telehealth with a view to making it permanent.

We have lobbied following disappointing Medicare task force review of electrocardiogram / ECG MBS item numbers.

We have lobbied following Aged Care Royal Commission to support GPs in their ongoing efforts caring for the aged population in residential aged care facilities.

3. We have been running the virtual community of practice for Sydney South West GPs following the establishment of this supportive and educational online platform throughout the year.

4. We have continued ongoing liaison with both NSW Health and South West Sydney PHN in regard to providing personal protective equipment to GPs.
5. Webinar. We have successfully launched our initial educational webinar for local GPs recently - Covid19 - with a view to continuing and rolling out further educational CPD webinars for our local community going forward.
6. The commencement of a regular interview series with relevant Sydney South West GPs Clinical, Political and Regional people or organisations with a view to ongoing support to our local GPs.
7. With ongoing liaison between GP Link and South West Sydney PHN we have been working to conclude a new memorandum of understanding principally with cooperative efforts to improve local GP education and support.
8. GP link membership. We will continue to encourage you all to discuss the organisation with your colleagues and work associates. The more of us that join together agitating to improve local health issues, principally patient outcomes and also the outcomes for GP issues such as remuneration, quality of life and career, the greater chance we will have engendering change with state and federal government and health institutions.

On behalf of the board I would wish you all a safe and enjoyable upcoming holiday period and all the best for this Covid Christmas.

Please feel free to contact myself or members of the Board regarding GPLink

Best Regards  
Ken

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