

## **MYASTHENIA GRAVIS ASSOCIATION of QUEENSLAND INC.**

### **TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT – YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015**

The 2014-2015 Financial Year has been solid thanks to the continued support afforded to the Association by the Department of Health Queensland in the form of the grant. As these funds are to cease at 31 December 2015, we have availed ourselves of the opportunity offered in conjunction with this grant being withdrawn to explore options for a different operating model to exist in the coming years. With this in mind there is been some variations reported in the income stream and again in the expenditures made. These are discussed below. In addition, the MGAQ Inc. has seen the long-term goal of entering into a National Alliance come to fruition. The accounting implications are demonstrated in the auditors report.

Firstly, thanks to effective communication with our membership we have enjoyed stronger support through enrolments and donations. This is fundamental to the Association going forward and is very pleasing. Initiatives to seek major sponsorship have proved positive with one significant sponsor on board and another promised. This work will be developed further through the coming financial year as success in this arena determines the scope of work that can be undertaken by the Association into the future. In addition, a major donor contributed \$5,000.00 to the Alliance for initial funding. Without this, it would have made it very difficult to form the Alliance and also to plan and run the conference. Income listed as "Other" relates to the funds received from Conference enrolments. The MAA does not operate an independent bank account and all funds are held in trust within the MGAQ bank accounts. As there are two parties currently involved in the Alliance, we show a liability against our total balance reflecting the funds (\$2,533.00) held in trust on behalf of the NSW Association.

In regard to expenditure, additional postage costs and office expenses were generated from the member survey undertaken earlier in the year. Also, this year has seen the Association's profile highlighted by the media coverage that was obtained and the publicity over the Conference and the Alliance. Consequently, a greater number of MG Patient surveys have been distributed. Despite now having two regional representatives attending committee meetings the travel costs have remained moderate thanks to the introduction of Teleconferencing facilities. These additional costs have been recorded under "meeting expenses". All meetings of the Alliance committee are held via this method also. Printing costs are high due to the Association successfully producing the book "Journey with Myasthenia Gravis". This book is designed to help those affected, to inform individuals involved in a caring role and to assist in raising awareness. The latter is an important link to the community in looking for philanthropic donations.

The website has been enhanced but as the improvements built upon the major work done in the previous financial year, the costs have been minimal. The storage costs have been eliminated as per the review process discussed last year.

Anthony Whyte, Audit Partner at BDO Brisbane, has again generously given of his time to undertake this audit and has offered to do so again next year. This gift to the Association is greatly appreciated.

With the introduction of more technology in the form of PayPal facilities and 'GiveNow' website donating, the reporting has become a little more complex but the benefits ensure we meet market place expectations. Revenue from the sale of the book "Journey with Myasthenia Gravis" will feed back into resources for the coming year. With ongoing measures to attract philanthropic donations and possible application for grants to produce vital literature, the Association is well placed to continue its work into the coming year. In December 2014, Lawrence Springborg, as Health Minister for the then LNP government, hinted that in recognition of the work done by the Association there may be some form of future funding. With the subsequent change of government this did not happen. Again, it has been suggested to us from my local ALP member that the possibility of some level of future funding may occur. To date, there is no supporting evidence to suggest this will occur. Some base funding for the Association would be invaluable in maintaining the broad scope of work undertaken into the future.

I submit the audited Financial Reports for the financial year ending 30 June 2015 for endorsement.