

## **President's Report**

2013 has been an very positive year for your Association. PHIA's Code of Conduct (CoC) is not only one of the most comprehensive industry codes in Australia, but is now officially recognised by the Private Healthcare Association's Code of Conduct and Insurers in general. Our Association is presently comprised of 17 organisations of which 11 are subscribed to our CoC, 2 have submitted their applications to the CoC Committee for consideration, with the remaining 4 who should be in the process of attaining the same. It is of utmost importance that ALL members subscribe to the CoC.

During the year we met with Peter Dutton (then Shadow Minister of Health) to lobby against the legislative changes proposed by the Labor Government. Peter expressed his disappointment in Health Insurer's not speaking out more against those changes. Now that these changes have gone through it is PHIA's intention to immediately focus on lobbying the new government to remove of the proposed 1 April 2014 changes to the rebate, remove the tiered rebate, and reintroduce the rebate to lifetime loadings. Numerous other lobbying efforts will be undertaken in this New Year.

Should any member wish to propose an item that may require lobbying with the Federal Government or with Health Insurers, they should contact the CEO, or a Member of the Board, with your proposition for due consideration by the Board. All members should remember that they are welcome to attend as guests any of the Board meeting held in Melbourne and Sydney. It is our intention to hold an informal meeting in Melbourne in April 2014 for all Melbourne and Interstate members to meet each other and Members of the Board. Such venue would offer us all the opportunity to have an update on our lobbying efforts and introduce new ideas and expectations.

On a sadder note, I regret to advise that Peter Kerestes, our CEO, has tendered his resignation for health reasons. Peter has been the major driving force behind the development and growth of our Association. It is thanks to Peter's efforts that PHIA is now recognised throughout the industry and can be proud of its achievements through the CoC. It is thanks to Peter's negotiating skills that we have been able to introduce various legislative changes for the common benefit of the industry and our members. On behalf of all PHIA members I would like to thank Peter for all these years of hard work and dedication. We are eternally thankful for all that you have done for us. Thank you so very much Peter.