

## PSWA Presidents Report – Mr John Cao

It was a historic year for PSWA in 2013. It ended with our society unifying with PSA creating for the first time a truly national body representing pharmacists all around the country. Since the beginning of this year PSWA handed over to PSA (WA Branch) the professional responsibilities of intern training and continued professional development.

It is an exciting time for PSWA and what the future brings. How it has looked in the past will be very different to how it will look in the future. The outgoing board dedicated a lot of time, effort, energy and on occasion, a few tears to make sure PSWA would exist post unification and not be a shell like some of the other states. The board also wanted to make sure PSWA would remain financially viable, and the assets saved up over the many years of our rich history could benefit West Australian pharmacists now and into the future.

I would like to briefly discuss some of the finer details of the terms sheet for the unification of PSWA and PSA national. Through the negotiations over the last 3 years, the board believes we negotiated a very good deal for WA. We entered negotiations with a “win-win” mentality, and ultimately this is what was achieved.

Through our surveys, focus groups, and previous discussions, the 3 main areas that our members were most concerned about was:

- (1) Our building – 21 Hamilton Street
- (2) Our significant cash reserves
- (3) Making sure we had a voice on the national stage, and not ignored because we are not located on the east coast of Australia

## **21 Hamilton Street & Lease**

- PSA leases the building rent free
  - PSA pays for all maintenance and upkeep, rates and taxes, and insurance
- The lease period is for 10 year with **no options**
- A redevelopment clause has been added in case we wanted to sell or redevelop the building during the lease.
- PDL will continue to enjoy a rent-free office at Hamilton Street

## **Cash Reserves**

- \$200 000 cash contribution was paid to PSA
- Offset by the revenue increase from increased membership fees (\$540 from \$395) with all members receiving Australian Pharmacist for no extra charge
- This amount was significantly less than what any of the other states contributed when PSA formed.

## **Adequate Representation / Voice at the National table**

- Additional national board member for 1 year – Russell Hill
- Russel and I attended the first national PSA board meeting for 2014 in February, and it was pleasing to see PSA actively wanting WA pharmacists on many of their committees.

I would like to thank everyone who has assisted or volunteered their time for PSWA last year. Especially all the members of our numerous committees from: Early Career Pharmacists, Award Committee, Gold Questionnaire Committee and the Annual Seminar Committee.

Thank-you to all the staff at the former PSWA: Jo, Janice, Charmaine, Jocelyn, Maureen, Tracy, Brenda and Mike. Your hard work, dedication and commitment was very much noticed and appreciated.

Finally I would like to acknowledge and thank the outgoing board. It has been an honour and a privilege to be involved with a group of such dedicated, passionate and talented pharmacists. I couldn't have done it without you!

I want to wish all the best to the newly elected PSWA board members: Dean, Richard, Celia, Tim and Jeff. PSWA is in good hands and we're all excited to see how you will lead our beloved society into the future!