



## Board Report

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet the Toorabul and Jagurra peoples and pay my respect to elders past and present.

Thank you all for attending today's events.

It has been just over twelve months since members voted to become a company limited by guarantee. All of the governance issues associated with this have been attended to and our association has been wound up.

As you can see we have new branding as we start our new legacy.

It has been a very busy year for the society as you would have seen in the Newsletters. The Board developed a Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2018 which we regularly review, but this sets out the work for the Society for the next 12 months.

September last year saw the election of the new Board and the commencement of the Asbestos Disease Support Society Limited. The eating well with Mesothelioma and Asbestosis nutrition guides were launched. This led to a new service of Dietetics being offered to members of the Society through the University of Queensland Clinics.

We also commenced our engagement activities with attendance at the Ipswich, Wide Bay and Brisbane Home Shows and the Dickson Senior Expo's. ADSS also engaged with industry through Round table meetings to see where we had some common ground. And of course we had two very successful Charity Race Day's which were supported by the Construction Industry and had high attendance due to the assistance of the CFMEU.

We were fortunate enough to have our funding from Queensland Health extended and were invited to an event at Parliament House with other recipients. The Society participated in WHSQ Big Breakfast in King George Square handing out many bottles of water to raise awareness of asbestos in the home.

At the end of last year and through to this year ADSS also embarked on a series of morning teas around the state along with Turner Freeman lawyers. Events were held in:

- Wide Bay
- North Lakes
- Kingaroy
- Bribie Island
- Chermside
- Maroochydore
- Bundaberg

- Cairns
- Mackay
- Toowoomba
- Redlands
- Gold Coast
- Rockhampton

In order to recognise those who help us ADSS held a Thank you event in November 2015 and “In Appreciation” awards were presented to:

- CFMEU Construction and General – Qld and NT
- Turner Freeman lawyers
- Electrical Trade Union
- Ilfracombe Community
- Springsure State School
- Trevor Gillmeister
- Garry Partridge
- Hutchinson Builders
- United Voice
- Bud Neiland

along with “Life membership” to Mrs Helen Colbert our past President.

We were also in a position to donate \$100 000 to ADRI for Research this year as well

We also joined the campaign for Keytruda to be put on the PBS listing and have recently sent through 242 petitions with 3945 signatures to the House of Representatives to be passed on to the Minister for a response.

ADSS attended the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency conference here in Brisbane in Asbestos Awareness Week and did a presentation on how we operate for other societies. We also had a stall King George Square.

ADSS was fortunate to create a new position of Services Support Officer and Leanne Pettersen commenced with ADSS in February.

One of the big issues for this year has been the importation of asbestos and ADSS has been very active in lobbying against this and the enforcement of penalties for those who import the products.

ADSS did a further four Home Shows in 2016 in Cairns, Mackay, Gold Cost and Rockhampton along with a Seniors event in Warwick. In order to travel to these events and take all of our equipment ADSS purchased a van with monies donated by CFMEU members. This has become commonly known as the Gilly Van.

We were also in a position to donate Versa Care Beds and Airvo Humidifiers to:

- The Prince Charles Hospital

- Maryborough Hospital
- Princess Alexandra Hospital

ADSS is proud to be part of a network of support groups around Australia and continue to investigate ways of how we can work co-operatively together.

We continue to provide Support services to our members via our Support Officer and volunteers and offer Occupational Therapy services and dietetics services to members as needed. Our Symposium is now held biannually and was once again a success today. The Ecumenical Service in November is still well attended by members, carers and other family members and widows of those we have lost.

The Morning teas offer that extra avenue of support so as people can create their own networks in their own areas, and this seems to be working well.

We continue to work in alliance with Turner Freeman Lawyers who support our members well along with the assisting us financially.

All members will soon receive a survey from the Centre for Social Research to give us feedback on our services or any new services that we can offer. We would encourage everybody to complete this survey.

Our new website should be up and running soon and will offer another means of communication and venue for people to pay their membership.

As you can see it has been a very busy year and I have only touched on the highlights. We do regularly report through the Newsletters on what we have been up to in the previous quarter.

Our membership remains around 600, however we assist many more.

On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the staff of ADSS for all the work that they do. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work that our volunteers undertake on behalf of the Society as well.

In closing I would like to thank the Board for all of their hard work. I would particularly like to acknowledge Bud Neiland who is standing down from the Board this term. Bud works tirelessly on our raffle and Race Day and without him they wouldn't be the success that they are.

As you saw earlier the ADSS is in a good financial position, we have strong governance and a good program supporting sufferers and we look forward to continuing our work over the next 12 months.