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# **President and CEO Report**

Looking back, the past financial year has been one of ups and downs to say the least. Much of how we worked was dictated by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in another difficult and challenging period for many members.

In July 2020, the move back to Stage 3 restrictions and then to Stage 4 for those living and practicing in metropolitan Melbourne, and the move to Stage 3 for regional Victoria impacted the profession and individual members significantly.

Throughout this time we worked closely with colleagues at Optometry Australia to provide accurate and timely advice to members. We liaised closely with the Victorian Chief Allied Health Officer and the Department of Health and Human Services, advocating the needs of the profession.

We argued against an initial state government proposal that under Stage 4 would have required all patients to obtain a GP referral in order to see an optometrist, and we were very pleased when this was overturned.

We also supported members to understand and comply with travel permit requirements, development of COVID-safe plans for practices, obligations related to the clinical care that could be delivered under these restrictions, and access to the new round of business grants.

With our South Australian members less impacted by COVID, our attention was focused on delivering a safe, enjoyable and informative Blue Sky Congress in Adelaide. We announced the event would be a hybrid approach, offering face-to-face experience for South Australians who have been craving an opportunity to get together with peers and colleagues, and an online component for those who were not able to travel.

Toward the end of the calendar year, optometry practices across Victoria were back up and running, and while it was not business as usual, it was as close to it as possible. South Australia had its own COVID scare towards the end of 2020 where the six-day lockdown was quickly reduced to three days that saw optometry practices able to return to near-normal in a short amount of time.

In mid-October we made the difficult decision to postpone Blue Sky 2020, which turned out to be a fortunate call as it had been scheduled to run in late-November right in the middle of the SA lockdown. We were confident that the new Blue Sky dates in February 2021 would allow members from Victoria and across the country to take a weekend break in Adelaide for some high quality CPD.

The New Year brought some welcome respite from the unpredictability of 2020 and the pandemic. While the odd hiccup reminded us we weren't out of the woods, many members told us their business was improving and patients' confidence was returning. The roll out of the vaccine to health care professionals in late March was a further reason to see confidence.

The association resumed delivery of some face-to-face CPD events, focused on South Australia initially. Blue Sky was held in February at the Adelaide Convention Centre and we were very pleased that the clinical program was well received, as was the trade show and social sundowner drinks for attendees at the end of the first day.



SRC Online.

We also held two additional events in Adelaide in March for our early career members, the immediate graduates' dinner for the class of 2020 who were working in South Australia, and our Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA) Dry Eye seminar. Both were exceptionally well attended and enjoyed by all. Our ECOV/SA Ocular Oncology webinar also held in March was another success.

The OV/SA Board were also developing our threeyear strategic plan and we were looking forward to sharing this with members.

In May there was another COVID-19 circuit breaker lockdown in Victoria, pushing optometrists back into the delivery of essential care only, and significantly impacting the clinical and business operations of practices. During this time we advocated to the Victorian Government to ensure that optometry practices could access the latest Business Support Grants and we were pleased when we were advised that this was the case. We also maintained close communication with members about changes as they occurred, and their impact on practice. The snap lockdown meant we had to reschedule several planned member CPD events across the two states.

Finally, at the end of our 2020-21 financial year we said a sad to farewell to Libby Boschen from our staff team. Libby spent 16 years working tirelessly for the association in South Australia and we wished her well in her new role in the sheep and cattle industry. Our South Australian members could feel confident that we had worked closely with Libby

up for our flagship conference O=MEGA21 and

registrations were strong. Over 600 delegates were

already registered to attend the clinical conference

alone with more registrations expected. We were

saddened when we needed to cancel this event

due to yet another lockdown in Melbourne and an emerging outbreak in NSW. We were pleased that

we could plan the replacement of O=MEGA21 with

confident that we had worked closely with Libby over the last two years since amalgamation, to ensure a seamless transition around her planned departure. We're confident we'll continue the high quality service that Libby has always provided to members.

As the year drew to a close, we were gearing

Elise Pocknee-Clem President

Aliso Pocle e

Pete Haydon Chief Executive Officer



## **Board and Committees**

Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) is managed by a Board of Directors elected from the membership. The key function of the Board is to ensure the good governance of the organisation. As part of this work, the Board considers the broad trends affecting the membership and the profession.

The Board must contain a minimum of three and a maximum of ten Directors. Up to two external Directors can be appointed who will bring specific skills and experience to the Board, while the Board can also appoint members to the role of Associate Director.

Associates can participate in Board meetings and discussions and view Board papers, however the Associate is not a full Director and carries no liability or responsibility for any Board decisions, and can't be counted in quorum or vote.

OV/SA appreciates the time and consideration given to the association by all our Directors and Associates.

The names of those who held office and attended meetings during the year (including the AGM and a strategic planning meeting) are seen below.

The Board is assisted in executing its duties through support by two subcommittees:

- The Governance Committee: Anne Weymouth (Chair), Murray Smith (until October 2020), Rowan Prendergast (until October 2020), Elise Pocknee-Clem, Cassandra Haines (began January 2021) and Jason Tan (began May 2021).
- The Audit Committee: Timothy Lo (Chair), Allison McKendrick, Jason Tan, and Stephanie Callisto.



Rowan
Prendergast
who attended
three meetings
and retired in
December 2020

Murray Smith (National Director), who attended five meetings. Allison
McKendrick
who attended
seven meetings

Anne
Weymouth
(Vice President)
who attended
six meetings.

Timothy Lo (Treasurer), who attended seven meetings The Board wishes to thank the management committees who assist greatly in making sure OV/SA services are led by optometrists, for optometrists. In particular, the Board thanks:

- CPD committee, which is Timothy Lo (Chair), Andrew Anderson, Anthea Cochrane, Suit May Ho, Elena Macris, Bao Nguyen and Mitchell Walker.
- The Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA) committee, which is Pooja Bhindi, Jillian Campbell (until May 2021), John De Francesco, Rowena Fuller, Hayley Gobell, Zenia Jaitley (until April 2021), Marcelle Malka (until April 2021), Jo Rohrlach, Alek Sims, and Mina You.
- State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA), which is Jason Booth (Chair), Loucia Calder, Jelle de Bock, Lauren Field, Cameron Girgenti, Karen Hawkes, Lisa Ho, Stuart Holden, Paige Lynch, Meyyappan Senthil Murugappa and Viki Nikas.

 State Advisory Committee Victoria (SACV), which is Mitchell Anjou (Chair), James Armitage, Rod Baker, Sarah Case, Jessica Chi, Mark De Paola, Phillip Fent, Hui-Ming Goh, Kerryn Hart, Graham Lakkis, Alice McLennan, Ken Thomas, and Kon Zagoritis.



Elise
Pocknee-Clem
(President), who
attended seven
meetings.

Cassandra Haines who attended six meetings.

Stephanie
Callisto
(Associate Director),
who attended seven
meetings.

Kurt Larsen who attended six meetings. Jason
Tan
(Became a Full
Board Director
December 2020), who



Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA) provides member services and support to a diverse community of optometrists at every stage of their career. OV/SA remains the only independent voice for optometry across our two states. With around 89 per cent of optometrists in Victoria and South Australia members of the association, our members and their profession are clearly at the centre of all of our work.

#### Member CPD events:

#### a strong adjunct to our conferences

This past year has once again been one of strong and direct engagement between OV/SA and our members. However the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, travel restrictions and rolling lockdowns has changed the way many events were held.

The regional CPD seminars in 2020-21 were a combination of face-to-face and online events, reflecting our strong focus on continuing to deliver member events.

In July 2020 the 'Enhancing patient care in the public health system' seminar was targeted specifically to Adelaide members and delivered in partnership with the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network. Based on evidence from the consulting optometrist pilot project at Modbury Hospital, the seminar brought to light some optometry referral practices negatively impacting waiting times and patient care at Modbury Hospital.

Presenters ophthalmologist Dr Sudha Cugati, consulting optometrist Jacqui Warren and Optometry Australia's Ben Hamlyn delivered practical and informative talks that ensured optometrists had all the information they need to refer effectively. Over 70 members attended this online event, and participants received 4.5T CPD points (with assessment).

Three seminars were held face-to-face in regional Victoria in May 2021 in the locations of Geelong, Wodonga and Bendigo. These events were well attended by local members and provided a great opportunity for local networking as well as good quality CPD education. Members attending the Regional Series received 2.5i CPD points (with assessment).

Guest speaker Malcolm Gin's presentation 'Retinal emergencies during COVID and other tales' provided participants with an overview on managing ocular emergencies during the pandemic with the Ring of Steel established between metropolitan Melbourne and regional rural Victoria.









## Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA)

The committee have continued to develop their support and services to early career members throughout 2020-21 with a strong focus on events for members across both states.

Committee members represent the diversity of OV/SA's early career membership, working in metropolitan and rural practices, across corporate and independent optometry. Following the amalgamation of the South Australian and Victorian ECO committees in July 2019 the new committee has continued to promote the profession. A list of current committee members is included in this report.

In August 2020 ECOV/SA held a session on AMD Management: How to use OCT Imaging and the latest research online. Attendees were updated with the latest knowledge on how to interpret optical coherence tomography (OCT) imaging in the clinical management of patients with age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Guest presenters were Zhichao Wu and Dr Carla Abbott. This event attracted over 300 participants and offered 6 CPD points with assessment.

The ECOV/SA How to navigate Complex Conversations Confidently was also held online in November with guest presenter Tiffany Roxas. This workshop explored conflict and how we can shift our perspective to help us best prepare for a complex conversations. This session attracted just under 150 members who received 1.5 NC CPD points.

Two additional ECOV/SA seminars were held in March 2021. The Ocular oncology seminar was held online for both South Australian and Victorian members via Zoom.Guest speakers Amanda Edgar and Dr David Sia provided participants with an update on the on the management of ocular surface and intraocular malignancies and the care pathway for patients undergoing a cancer diagnosis. Around 250 participants received 1.5CPD hours.

The ECOV/SA Dry Eye Seminar was the first face-to face ECOV/SA CPD seminar to be held since early 2020. The seminar was supported by Alcon and held in Adelaide with 55 members attending on the night. Guest speakers were optometrist Meagan Zabell from Alcon, South Australian optometrist Jennifer Rayner and South Australian optometrist Jennifer Rayner and South Australian ophthalmologist Dr Ben LaHood. ECOV/SA committee member Jo Rohrlach was MC and OV/SA's Member Services and Policy Manager Michelle Marven provided an update on the work of the association. Attendees received 2.5T hours with assessment.

The ECOV/SA committee were also active in a range of other activities and initiatives throughout 2021. They participated in peer mentoring lunches and dinners where early career optometrists are provided an opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals to discuss the challenges of transitioning from study to practice, and in the first ten years of establishing a career. These meetings were held in Eyre Peninsula and Clare Valley in South Australia as well as Bendigo and Ballarat in Victoria.

The Careers Expo for final year students was held at Flinders University face-to-face in June 2021, where committee members, and early career optometrists provided insight into what to expect post-studies. Nine corporate and independent practices exhibited on the night providing final year students an opportunity to launch their optometry career and find their first job. Again ECOV/SA committee members were involved in assisting on the night.

During 2021 ECOV/SA committee members also participated in presentations to optometry students across a range of year levels at Deakin University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne. Committee members also attended OV/SA's immediate graduate dinners in March and April 2021, which were held for the University of Melbourne and Flinders University OV/SA graduates.



#### Student and Recent Graduate Engagement

Students are the future of the profession. In 2020-21 with the support of University staff, OV/SA once again presented to optometry students in their second last and final years of study. Staff, Board Directors and ECOV/SA committee members participated in these sessions to students at Deakin University, Flinders University and the University of Melbourne

The sessions provided students with practical information on managing risk when practicing, employment contracts and considerations, registering with AHPRA, obtaining a Medicare provider number and requirements associated with using Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Sessions also focused on the advocacy work of the association. All presentations also included on overview of OV/SA and the benefits of membership.

The Career Expo was held in Adelaide in June 2021 and was very successful, with around 35 students from Flinders University attending. Presentations focused on potential career pathways, and employment opportunities. A clinical panel session was also held as well as a career panel session with early career optometrists. Exhibitors who were planning to employ new graduates were also able to meet and engage with future optometrists at this event. We thank Flinders University for their support in delivering this event.

A face-to-face immediate graduate dinner for Flinders University graduates was held in March 2021 in Adelaide, with a second event held in April in Melbourne for University of Melbourne graduates. The social movement and travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that the October 2020 event for Deakin University graduates could not be held face-to-face. Instead OV/SA distributed \$30 vouchers directly to immediate graduate members, so they could still have dinner on us in the comfort and safety of their own home.

#### OV/SA's State Advisory Committees

OV/SA's State Advisory Committee South Australia (SACSA) and State Advisory Committee Victoria (SACV) provide advice and input to the CEO and secretariat staff on emerging issues in the optometry field; clinical and technical optometric advice and feedback; guidance on policy issues and input into the development or updating of member resources and information. The committees meet twice a year, and are consulted throughout the remainder of the year as required. They provide valuable support and advice. A list of the committee members is available in this report. There are plans underway to merge the two committees into one in the latter half of 2021.









#### **OV/SA Awards and Grants**

The OV/SA Academic Award is for final year optometry students who epitomise the highest commitment to patient care. The \$1,500 prize is awarded to a final year student who demonstrates outstanding clinical aptitude, commitment to evidence-based practice and professionalism. In 2020-21 the award was won by Hannah Jackson (Deakin University), and Wan Ling Goh (University of Melbourne). For the first time the award was also presented to a student from Flinders University, and Tania Zanatta was the recipient.

The ECO Education Grant was developed by the ECOV/SA committee and was this year sponsored by OV/SA. An outstanding pool of applications was received from early career members, and the successful applicant for the \$1,500 grant was Esther Chung.

The OV/SA Postgraduate International Travel Grant was won in 2020-21 by Ching Yi Wu. Ching Yi is hoping to use the grant towards travel costs to Manchester, England, to conduct a clinical study that will investigate the biophysiological aspects of contact lens wear discomfort as part of her PhD. The OV/SA Postgraduate National Travel Grant was awarded to Kai Lyn Goh. Kai Lyn's research aims to identify biomarkers that may assist in predicting the progression of Agerelated Macular Degeneration (AMD).



Ching Yi Wu won the International Travel Grant



Esther Chung won the ECO Education Grant



Hannah Jackson won OV/SA Academic Award



Kai Lyn Goh won the National Travel Grant



Tania Zanatta won OV/SA Academic Award



Wan Ling Goh won OV/SA Academic Award



#### Vision Initiative

Vision Initiative (VI) is a Victorian program delivered by Vision 2020 that aims to prevent avoidable blindness and vision loss by delivering integrated health promotion programs and support. As a member of the VI steering committee OV/SA provided strategic advice to the program, as well as optometric-specific and operational advice to the VI project team to support the development and implementation of various initiatives. Key highlights included:

- The Australian Primary Health Care Nurses
   Association (APNA) collaborated with VI and OV/
   SA to develop an online course to provide nurses
   with an understanding of the human eyes.
- OV/SA member Kate Pecar presented a webinar promoting the importance of eye health to Council for the Aging (COTA) members in March, a joint collaboration between VI, COTA and OV/SA.
- OV/SA member Jue Wang, responded to our request for a Mandarin speaker to present an eye health webinar to the Chinese clients of Migrant Information Centre (MIC), in collaboration with VI in April 2021.
- The Vietnamese Australian Senior Association of Victoria (VASA-Vic) in collaboration with VI held an eye health presentation in March 2021. OV/SA member Associate Professor Bang Bui presenter for the webinar.
- Australian Diabetes Educators Association (ADEA) eye health online training module
- OV/SA contributed to the diabetes and eye health module for diabetes educators.
- As part of World Sight Day 2020, OV/SA member Daniel Farrugia, participated in a collaborative social media campaign with Diabetes Victoria to promote the importance of comprehensive eye examinations for people with diabetes.
- The Quit online training for eye health professionals, developed in collaboration with VI and with input from OV/SA and Orthoptists Australia, was released on World Sight Day in early October. OV/SA Board Director Rowan Prendergast undertook the training and provided a quote on his experience, for promotional purposes.

 Eye health training for bilingual health educators from Multicultural Centre for Women's Health were delivered by OV/SA's Policy and Advocacy Coordinator Lyn Hsieh in June 2021.

#### Tailored Advice and Industry News

OV/SA provided professional and clinical advice to members throughout 2020-21 that was immediate, confidential and tailored, via our electronic direct message (EDM) platform. This included information on CPD requirements, registration renewal including effectively managing AHPRA audits, visual standards for driving requirements, managing patient health records, requirements when working as a locum, and industrial relations and employment issues.

We provided immediate updates to members in both South Australia and Victoria on changes to the types of patients they were allowed to see, following ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. This was in the form of EDMs immediately following announcements from the Health Department. Our ability to disseminate the information and make it relevant to optometrists, from the blanket message to allied health professionals from the government, saw us become the primary source of information for optometrists throughout the often confusing and fast-changing restrictions.

We also kept members informed about industry news and issues by producing digital editions of Scope; monthly editions of the digital e-Wink newsletter; maintaining communication with members through the OV/SA Facebook page, and regularly updating content on the Optometry Australia website.





## **Conferences**

Our flagship event for 2021 was Blue Sky, which was held over two days in February at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

In the midst of long lasting travel restrictions Blue Sky was postponed from November 2020 to February 2021 and held for the first time as a hybrid event. Over 450 people attended presentations in Adelaide and online.

Blue Sky provided attendees with engaging and informative local and national speakers including Australian of the Year and ophthalmologist, Dr James Muecke speaking on the T2D Epidemic, and a special online presentation direct from the US with perennial conference favorites Nate Lighthizer and Blair Lonsberry.

Our speakers at Blue Sky included Australian Optometrists Jeremiah Lim, Lachlan Scott-Hoy, Rebekah Hopps, Jillian Campbell and Jason Booth as well as ophthalmologists Dr Katja Ullrich and Associate Professor Celia Chen. Participants received up to 17.5 CPD hours (with assessment) for attending the full two days.

The trade exhibition provided attendees with an opportunity to view the latest products and services relevant to their practices.

CPR refresher training was provided before the conference lectures, with around 20 members taking advantage of the opportunity to update their certificate. Sundowner drinks at the end of the first night provided a great opportunity for delegates to relax and network before another full day of lectures.









#### World Congress of Optometry

After winning the bid to host the fourth World Congress of Optometry (WCO) due to be held in 2021, we unfortunately had to make the difficult decision to postpone the event until 2023. This was because of restrictions preventing non-Australian residents from entering the country, which would have made such a large scale international event unfeasible. The World Congress will now be held in conjunction with O=MEGA23 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.



































# Government relations, advocacy and promotion

OV/SA membership fees help us provide resources which lead, protect and promote optometry generally, as well as members' standing as eye health experts. As an organisation, we support advocacy to expand the future scope of practice of optometrists to prescribe oral medications for eye health conditions. We also support advocacy to expand future scope of practice that would enable optometrists to administer intravitreal injections for AMD and DMO and be integrated into successful collaborative care models with ophthalmologists for stable glaucoma, pre and post-operative cataracts, paediatric eyecare and early-stage diabetic retinopathy.

#### COVID-19 advocacy

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, OV/ SA has worked closely with the Chief Allied Health Officer (CAHO) in both Victoria and South Australia, the Australian Health Professions Association (AHPA) and Optometry Australia, to respond to restrictions implemented by state governments.

We attended regular meetings with the CAHO and AHPA following key government announcements, and worked closely with Optometry Australia to develop joint member EDMs that accurately interpret and reinforce government directives. Through this process we have built sound working relationships with the CAHO and AHPA, and extended our relationships with other allied health organisations.

In Victoria's lockdown in February 2021, OV/SA wrote to the Victorian Health Minister and CAHO, advocating for optometrists to practise without restrictions. We highlighted the significant impacts that delayed care had on the eye health of the community. The letters were positively received by key stakeholders and resulted in additional meetings about key issues. At the same time, OV/SA collated case studies from members highlighting the impact of restrictions on the delivery of urgent and essential care. These studies supported our advocacy to ensure urgent and essential care could be delivered by optometrists during any future lockdowns.

OV/SA also wrote to the Victorian Minister for Industry and Support Recovery advocating for optometry to be included in the Circuit Breaker Business Support Packages. Optometry Australia also co-signed a joint letter initiated by the Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) to the same effect. We received confirmation on 3 June that optometry practices were eligible for Business Costs Assistance Program Round Two grants.

In addition, following recommendations made by the Victorian Ombudsman regarding access to previous Business Support Fund grants, the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions is reassessing previous applicants, including optometry practices. OV/SA has supported members who were eligible through the reassessment application process.



#### Public hospital advocacy

OV/SA has continued to actively advocate for the optometrist role at Modbury Hospital in South Australia to be re-instated. The pilot project operated for several years, working collaboratively with the public ophthalmology clinic to reduce patient waiting times and ensure that referrals to the clinic are appropriate and necessary. OV/SA provided direct support to the optometrist, regularly liaised with the lead ophthalmologist and clinic staff, and advocated the benefits of the project to a range of key South Australian government representatives.

OV/SA has also continued to explore other opportunities for optometry to be included and embedded in public hospital ophthalmology clinics in both South Australia and Victoria. This has included meetings with individual ophthalmologists, state government department representatives and key medical practitioners.

#### Statewide Referral Criteria

The Statewide Referral Criteria (SRC) for Victorian public ophthalmology clinics was introduced on 1 May 2021. The SRC was developed by the Victorian Department of Health, with input from ophthalmology, optometry, primary care and other stakeholders.

OV/SA collaborated with North West Primary Health Network (NWPHN) to tailor communications and promotion of SRC implementation to the needs of our members. This ensured consistent and clear communication across primary care and eyecare. The introduction of the SRC meant that almost all referrals to public ophthalmology for certain ocular conditions required optometry assessment. For optometrists, this meant that GPs were required to refer patients to optometry before their referral would be accepted by public ophthalmology. This further established the role of optometry in the wider eye health sector.

#### VicRoads and Department of Transport

In November 2020 VicRoads launched its Online Medical Report. The report is a smart form that's integrated into the website, for use by medical and allied health practitioners. It aimed to improve efficiency and simplify the process for both practitioners and patients. OV/SA members not only provided input into the development of the report but worked with VicRoads to promote it among our membership base.

The Online Medical Report and results from the survey 'Vision and fitness to drive: a survey to inform interventions for older drivers', that OV/SA and Department of Transport collaboratively developed, were the focuses of a CPD event in October 2020.

## Advocating on issues important to early career practitioners

A survey of South Australian and Victorian early career members, was developed by the ECOV/SA committee in July 2020. The survey aimed to gain insight into members' professional issues of concern and the results were discussed at Optometry Australia's Early Career Optometrists 2020 National Think Tank.

#### Maternity and Parental Leave resource

A maternity and parental leave resource is being developed in response to member enquiries around preparing for this leave, including what their responsibilities are regarding AHPRA registration and options for OA membership. To assist both employees and employers to navigate the process before, during and after maternity, paternity and parental leave, this toolkit which will be reviewed by Industry Legal Group, collates and links members to the relevant resources.



# **Treasurer's Report**

For the 2020-21 year the association reports a deficit of \$140,396 (against a budgeted deficit of approximately \$335k) after providing for income tax. The deficit largely relates to the decision taken by the Board in April 2020 to reduce subscription fees by 50 per cent for the 2020-21 year to assist members through the COVID-19 pandemic. The positive result against plan was driven by better than expected membership revenue and various grants and support offered by the state and federal government. The very significant contribution from Optometry Australia, which assisted OV/SA to underwrite the membership discounting program, was received and was greatly appreciated by the Board.

The BlueSky conference was delayed from November 2020 until February 2021. Costs associated with the delay, costs associated with delivering a 'hybrid' event, and the impact of closed borders on in-person delegate numbers meant the event – while very successful in terms of assisting members to achieve their CPD goals – delivered a loss of approximately \$67k against budget.

The Board will continue to pursue surpluses in 'odd' years where O=MEGA is held, however this surplus may be compromised in 2021-22 following the unfortunate cancelation of O=MEGA21 due to the pandemic and the late replacement of this event with SRC Online. Nevertheless, the strategy to work towards surpluses for the O=MEGA years allows for small deficits to be run, as required, in 'even' years where Blue Sky is traditionally held. This, along with

the prudent management of expenses and a pursuit of partnerships across the federation will help to ensure OV/SA's overall financial strength while expanding quality member services.

Audited Financial Reports for Optometry Victoria South Australia Limited have been completed, and an unqualified opinion in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 has been issued. The Financial Reports for the organisation have been published on the OV/SA website, and reports have been distributed to members attending the AGM, which will be attended by the auditor.

logh

Timothy Lo Treasurer











## Strategic Goals for 2020-21

#### Lead



- Lead membership through evolution of market and sector changes
- Improve community eye health and vision care, with a particular focus on under-serviced populations
- Uphold and promote professional standards
- Drive positive outcomes for optometry through collaborative projects and initiatives in South Australia; evolve relationships with SA Health and other key stakeholders through Health Pathways etc.

#### Engage



- Inspire collegiality in membership
- Enhance social media engagement
- Promote OV/SA to optometry students
- Provide outstanding member resources and information

#### **Promote**



- Work to further develop professional practice toolkits for members
- Improve engagement with GPs, pharmacists and other health care professionals

#### Create an enduring organisation



- Ensure long-term financial sustainability
- Ensure organisational capability
- Drive efficiencies and avoid duplications by being a collegial and dynamic member of the federation

#### **Board**

Elise Pocknee-Clem President
Anne Weymouth Vice President
Murray Smith National Director

Timothy Lo Treasurer
Kurt Larsen Director
Cassandra Haines Director
Allison McKendrick Director

Rowan Prendergast Director (until December 2020)

Stephanie Callisto Associate Director

Jason Tan Associate Director (until December 2020, then Full Director )

#### Secretariat

Pete Haydon Chief Executive Officer

Michelle Marven
Jenny Hall
Sue Mason
Lisa Busuttil

Member Services and Policy Manager
Business Support and Operations Manager
Member Events Coordinator (until February 2020)
Member Events Coordinator (from February 2020)

Libby Boschen
Lyn Hsieh
Policy and Advocacy Coordinator (from February 2020)
Melanie Andrews
Governance Liaison, Finance and Administration Officer

Anthea Cochrane Education Consultant

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