

# Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme and Services for the Aged



ANNUAL REPORT 2001

# CHAIRMAN & COUNCIL



**Chairman  
Mr. John Pack**

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme and Services for the Aged, I take pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2001.

We are delighted that Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW has graciously agreed to be Patron of the Scheme. My wife Junie and I had the pleasure of meeting with Her Excellency and found her to be very much aware and supportive of the work of the Scheme, having spent her childhood in Narrandera where her mother was a Branch member.

The Scheme also extends its gratitude and best wishes to our former Patron, His Excellency The Honourable Gordon Samuels AC Governor of NSW, in his retirement.

The Scheme has had a successful and rewarding year. Expenditure was kept within budget through careful management, this together with a significant increase in legacies and donations resulted in a surplus of \$959,455.00.

We continue to provide quality health care services for children from rural NSW and are constantly developing new and innovative care programs. The number of occasions of service once again exceeded 3000 for the financial year.

It is pleasing that the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme has been commended in a recent periodic review conducted by the Australian Council on Health Care Standards (ACHS). Outreach programs in some 12 country areas are operating very successfully.

We are making progress towards implementing our telehealth initiative with our Speech Pathologists leading trials with the NSW Department of Health and the University of Sydney.

Royal Far West has a strong and caring commitment to aged care. All of the Scheme's aged care facilities have received Accreditation and the Scheme is now developing a strategy for the nursing homes to ensure that they sufficiently meet future Accreditation requirements.

A review of children's services by KPMG has been completed and committees have been established to address some of the findings. This report will provide the Scheme with a basis on which to develop forward strategies for the Scheme.

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the Council, Ms Candace Lewis BA LLB LLM (Hons.). Unfortunately, Dr. Anne Cripps and Glenda Humes resigned from the Council during the year. We would like to thank them both for their contribution over many years.

The Royal Far West Branch network remains strong and their efforts not only in fund raising but in raising public awareness is of immense importance to the Scheme. This year, fundraising from the Branches totaled over \$380,000.00. Thank you for a wonderful effort.

I would like to extend my thanks to all staff of the Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme and Services for the Aged for their selfless efforts in ensuring a successful year of operation. I would also like to thank the members of the Council for their support and dedication.

The Royal Far West School, funded by the NSW Department of Education, plays a major part in the care given to country children. However, we regard the resources provided for the school counsellor to be inadequate. This matter is being followed up with the NSW Department of Education.

## **Councillors**

John Pack (Chairman)  
Stuart McPherson (Deputy Chairman)  
Raymond Griffiths BA LLB (Treasurer)  
William Supple  
William Langshaw AM BA Dip Soc Studs  
Jessie Puntton  
Candace Lewis BA LLB LLM (Hons)

Stanley Drummond BA LLB FAII  
John Drummond B Sc M Sc M Math  
Dr. Graham Bench MB BS (Syd) DCH (Lon) FRACP  
Dr. John Dearin MB BS BSc (Med) Hons (UNSW)  
Dip Ger Med, Dip Med Rehab (RCP London)  
MBioeth (UTS)

# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Royal Far West Children's Health Scheme and Services for the Aged has continued to excel in all areas, contributing to the achievement of an extremely positive financial result for the year.

Through our highly skilled and committed team of professionals we have continued to fulfil our mission, that being 'to provide a comprehensive, quality health care service for children from rural NSW and residents accommodated in the Scheme's Aged Care facilities'.

New and innovative programs have consequently been added to our existing services, all of which have been closely monitored and evaluated to ensure that they meet their predefined objectives.



**Mr. Alan Godfrey**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

This year we underwent a periodic review that was undertaken by the Australian Council of Health Care Standards. The review clearly demonstrated that the Scheme was continuing with its commitment to achieve quality outcomes through the implementation of Best Practice principles.

All of the Aged Care facilities, owned and operated by the Royal Far West, have been independently reviewed and have all achieved Accreditation status. All staff is to be congratulated for this achievement.

The Scheme's Council commissioned KPMG to undertake a review of children's services to ensure that in the areas of Strategic Planning we would be in a strong position to meet the community's expectations of service provision. Their findings clearly demonstrated client satisfaction with the services that are being provided. Other recommendations are currently being examined and will be included in the facility's 5 year Strategic Plan.

Earlier in the year the administration section was relocated from the Elsie Hill Building in Wentworth Street to the main building located in South Steyne. This has produced many positive outcomes with increased interpersonal relationships between staff that has also culminated in overall cost savings.

It is planned that the Elsie Hill building will be utilised as a guest house accommodation facility to produce additional income for the Scheme.

The three Nursing Homes have been reviewed by a building consultant to ensure that they meet future expectations for Aged Care.

I would like to thank all members of staff for their dedication, contribution and commitment that enables the Scheme to be held in such high regard within the community.

As always, I would like to congratulate the Branches, Auxiliaries and Contacts that always fly the flag of Royal Far West and generate considerable income through their fund-raising activities. Along with this, the support from organisations and community groups greatly assists in ensuring that children in need of medical and paramedical services are given the opportunity to receive a high standard of medical treatment.