

## **Chairman's Annual Report - 8 December 2023**

Where did 2023 go as it only seems a few months since I was writing my 2022 Chairman's annual report.

This year the Board managed to meet in person for each meeting and as a working group we were able to tackle some long-standing items including a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ambulance Provident Fund (APF) and NSW Ambulance, allowing us to continue to foster the great relationship the APF Board, and Fund itself, has with NSW Ambulance.

Members will also have seen with the notice to members regarding the 2023 AGM and Board nominations a letter from me outlining a new constitution to lead the APF into the future.

Way back in 2018 the APF Board notified our members of a review of the Constitution. A key need for the review was the need to meet the challenges of a diverse and changing paramedic workforce and to ensure the continued growth and success of the APF ensuring it met alignment with the Corporation's Act.

The Board has put a lot of work in to seeking advice, looking into similar organisations' Constitutions, as well identifying a suitable law firm to assist drafting the new APF constitution. Thank you to my Board for their tireless work in getting the new constitution drafted, in particular Peter Lang.

The success of our Finance committee continues to provide the Board with strong investment strategies as well as continued monitoring to ensure all our investments meet our strict criteria. For our membership committee, we have had one of our most successful years of membership growth following the promotion of APF to the new recruits at Graduate induction courses.

2023 presented tragedy again upon NSW Ambulance with the tragic loss of Graduate Paramedic and APF member Steven Tougher. Again, we have been able to tell the younger generation of recruits of Steven's story as well as Daniella's story from last year, and how being a member of the APF can assist families at their time of need. Through my role supporting Stephen's family post this tragic event I experienced firsthand how Steven's membership and beneficiary payment assisted his family. Again, this is just one of the many stories of how APF has helped members' families over 42 years and again, undertake exactly what it was set up to do.

The APF was able to attract on average ten to twenty new members per class over the year. This year the APF paid out more than \$128,000.00 members' beneficiaries and I encourage each of you as an APF member to ensure your benefactor details are up to date as it is the individual members responsibility, not the APF or the Boards role to keep those details up to date

The APF Board continues with two key strategies as part of developing our 5-year plan:

- Membership growth
- Financial growth

Both need the other for success. As I have said previously, without growth, we won't have a regular income to maintain future investments to grow the Fund. In 2024, with the new Constitution in place the Board will implement an exciting new way beneficiary payments will look into the future along with our levels of membership, especially for those who are employees of NSW Ambulance now and into the future.

Another key component of our vision will be the ability to have '*Appointed Directors*' for up to two persons with specific skills including, but not limited to, a lawyer, accountant, or person with *expertise* for a particular project to assist with our strategies and 5-year plan.

As always, I ask again for you to please help promote the APF amongst your Ambulance colleagues. The number of times I walk onto ambulance stations and engage with staff and talk about the APF they say, "*What's that? Never heard of it.*" To assist with boosting our membership numbers, look out for our membership promotion coming in early 2024.

Also please keep your membership details updated via our membership porthole on our internet page with up-to-date contact numbers, email address, as well as your nominated benefactors.

To the APF Board and Executive, '*thank you*' for your continued hard work that goes on daily to ensure the success and growth of the APF. It is your continued support and efforts to drive the APF forward with continued robust financial strategies including diversification that, as you will see in our financials, proves the amazing work of your Board.

Here is to 2024 as we strive to grow our membership and funds to support the members of the APF nominated benefactors.

Cheers  
Mark



**Mark Gibbs ASM JP**  
**Chairman**