



**Annual General Meeting  
Saturday 5 December, 2009, 9:30am  
Madame Mango Cafe**

**Secretary Report**

*This report serves to highlight some of Keratoconus Australia's key milestones, most of which have been mentioned in the 2009 Annual Report*

**1. Database development, data entry and data analyses**

- KA has 2 questionnaires: General member questionnaire and health rebate enquiry
- Professional assistance was sought for the set-up, entry and analyses of questionnaires
- While a draft report was written some time ago, unfortunately there have been no developments in progressing this
- KA has been seeking a longer term solution to systematically manage this and any further progress with this demographic research task has halted
- In the coming year KA will produce a finalised report with inclusion of some 1500 questionnaires (for each survey) as well as pursue the possibility of the involvement of a social research company involvement for the ongoing management
- This work is ideally suited to a student project and this possibility will be explored

**2. Research**

- KA has had varied forms of involvement with 3 research projects this year
  1. CXL Trial (refer to Annual Report)
  2. University of New South Wales – PhD project investigating whether there are changes to the tears of people who have keratoconus and whether these changes can assist in better understanding of the condition and perhaps monitor its progression. Preliminary discussions have been held regarding the possibility of KA assisting financially or with patient recruitment
  3. NHMRC grant application with the University of Adelaide, Flinders Medical Centre (refer to Annual Report)

**3. Partnerships: Vision2020 Australia**

- Vision2020 Australia have been significantly supportive of KA's advocacy activities
- KA presented at the Low-Vision and Rehabilitation Meeting, issue of contact lens cost was well received, but although there has been limited follow up
- Secretary attended Vision2020 Australia Member Forum, Sydney, July 2009
- Forum focus was on the implementation and evaluation of the National Framework on eye health
- The response to the activities of KA is overwhelming positive by all who attend the forum, including an optometrist from the Fred Hollows Foundation, the



Cornea & Contact Lens Society, The University of New South Wales (regarding research possibilities)

## **5. Phone support**

- This means of support has continued to be less popular in 2008-9, with most people contacting KA via email
- It is still a valuable "first port of call" and serves as a method for people to check the that Association is "real" by having personalised, verbal contact

## **6. Volunteers and offers of assistance**

- KA has shifted its focus in the volunteer involvement it seeks due to the limited resources we have to manage volunteers
- KA seeks volunteers with specific skill sets, including web design, research & data analysis involvement, advocacy experience and those with a specific interest in assisting in progressing some of KA's core issues
- Professional administrative assistance in 2009 has been extremely successful and will free up the time for committee members to focus on key advocacy and research activities in 2010
- KA is delighted that Heidi Littleford will be joining the committee in 2010, her input will have a significant impact on advancing some of KA's activities

## **7. Financial Management**

- KA has been fortunate to continue to have the probono services of GMK Centric
- KA is required to maintain records of all incoming and outgoing expenses
- GMK are responsibility for BAS and all account keeping tasks (MYOB etc)
- As a result, KA financial management continues to improve each year with zero inconsistencies
- Refer to Annual Report for Financial Statement

## **8. Acknowledgements**

- GMK Centric for their continuing to take responsibility of account keeping assistance on a probono basis
- Vision2020 Australia, in particular Sarah Ryan, for support of KA's advocacy activities
- The University of Melbourne for its ongoing support of keratoconus lecture material and development of undergraduate and post-graduate material
- Richard Vojlay for his continued commitment to the development of keratoconus lecture material for students
- Victorian College of Optometry for the continued complimentary use of its facilities
- Last but not least KA Committee

**Belinda Cerritelli**

Secretary