

## June 2017 e-news



We have just received the results from the Membership Survey and it is pleasing to see that most of those who responded to the survey (although this was only 15% of the membership) are mostly happy with the majority of what your Association is doing. Priority areas are in education and maintaining clinical standards. Our Board has been very active in the past 12 months in these areas, with the launch of the Education Resource Centre and pending publication of 4 new guideline documents.

We have heard nothing more from the Department of Health regarding the proposed changes to the Medicare schedule, but we are in contact with them.

The ASA has partnered with Sleep Health Foundation and engaged Executive Counsel Australia to promote our interests with government. We have arranged a series of meetings with federal politicians and will be discussing the clinical, educational and research needs and interests of our members.

A special General Meeting of the ASA was held last week and a resolution passed to change our Constitution. There were a number of small changes, to improve our governance and legal compliance, but the major change was to add a paragraph regarding our charitable status. This will enable us to apply to become a Health Promotion Charity, so that we are able to take tax-deductible donations to our various scholarships. This meeting was held with one of the Victorian quarterly meetings, which have been organised for many years by Matthew Naughton. It was again an excellent meeting that Matthew put together, a great learning opportunity for all of us present. These meetings keep us up to date with the latest developments in our field as well as an enjoyable opportunity to catch up with our colleagues. We are all very grateful to Matthew for doing this for us.

Abstract submission for the ASA meeting in Auckland has now closed; I encourage you all to take advantage of early bird registration before the cut-off date of 31 July. I am also hoping to see many of our members at the first combined meeting of the World Sleep Society in Prague in early October.

*Maree Barnes*  
**ASA President**