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From the CEO

It is hard to believe that another year is drawing rapidly to a close. It has been a year of both challenges and achievements for AWCH.

To sum up, 2010 has been about raising the profile of our organisation. We have sought to do this at both a Federal and State government level; with the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aging; with NSW Health; with various non-government organisations as well as with major corporates.

We have had considerable success in raising our profile and it is my strong view that 2011 will see the fruits of the many activities we have undertaken this year.

There continues to be an enormous need for our programs, services and advocacy work. However, our lack of funds continues to be the most significant challenge we face. Without additional funding we are unable to operate at a national level and as a result cannot extend our programs and services to sick children and young people and their families in every state of Australia.

However, the feedback we keep receiving from parents and clinicians is tremendous! So we will keep focusing on trying to attract additional funding, our fundraising and on trying to secure grants for our programs and services.



The support we have received from both our Patron, the Governor General, Ms Quentin Bryce and the NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir has been enormously helpful as we seek to both raise our profile and secure additional funding support. We are greatly indebted to them both.

Speaking out against practices that we believe compromise and potential harm sick children and young people has been at the forefront of our work again in 2010.

We have issued a number of press releases speaking against the practice of the collocation of children and young people in adult wards and as a result secured a number of radio interviews with both metropolitan and regional stations.

Recently, we wrote to the Minister for Immigration and



Citizenship, the Hon. Chris Bowen, drawing his attention to the damage that mandatory detention of children causes.

We wrote to him of our concerns about the current policy of detaining children in immigration detention as a matter of first resort and have a further concern about the impact of immigration detention on the psychosocial well-being of children and young people.

AWCH strongly opposes the mandatory detention of children and young people and recommends that families with children be released into community-based housing in family friendly units with access to health, education and recreation services to the same level as the general population. Transferring children and young people from high security places to lower security ones is not acceptable and depriving children of their liberty is a violation of their human rights.

While the Minister has announced that families and unaccompanied children would be released from immigration detention and placed into community accommodation, why did he also announce that new detention facilities for families would be located in Inverbrackie in the Adelaide Hills and the Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation Centre would be expanded for unaccompanied minors? If children and families are truly going to be released into the community after a fast health and security screening, then why do we need to expand the current facilities available?

If you feel as strongly about this issue as we do, I encourage you to also write to the Minister, to express your views and to also go to our website www.awch.org.au where you can read our letter to the Minister and follow the links to **Chilout**, who advocates for the release of children from mandatory detention.

AWCH continues to work closely with Children's Hospitals Australasia (CHA). This year we partnered with CHA to hold a Children's Rights in Healthcare day in Melbourne as part of the recent CHA Annual Conference. It was a tremendously successful day opened by Catherine Branson QC, President of the Human Rights Commission followed by some excellent and challenging speakers including Gillian Calvert, former NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People as well as a fabulous panel of young people from Youth @ the Kids, the Youth Advisory Council, Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

All of us at AWCH would like to thank Liz Chatham and her team at CHA for all their support and friendship during 2010.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Professor Les White on his recent appointment as NSW Chief Paediatrician. This a first for NSW and we are thrilled that Les has been appointed to take on this significant role of providing strategic leadership and direction in the area of health policy for children and young people across NSW.

Congratulations Les, and our thanks as always for all the support you have provided to us over the years. We look forward to working with you in your new role.

It has been a year of challenges for the AWCH team on both the work and home fronts! I would like to take a moment to thank Anne and Rowena most sincerely for their dedication to AWCH and for their professionalism and never-ending capacity to deliver despite the many challenges that have kept coming this year!

I would also like to thank all our fabulous volunteers particularly Peggy Cameron for her happy and unflappable approach to any and all tasks!

Finally, I would like to thank you our readers for your support and I wish you well for the holiday season ahead and for a happy, healthy and safe 2011.



Chief Executive Officer

The Governor General Supports

THE AWCH WARD GRANDPARENTS SCHEME



Earlier this year, Joanna Holt, AWCH President, David Bennett, AWCH Ambassador and Michelle Sloane, CEO met with the Governor General, our Patron, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce.

The purpose of our meeting was to bring Ms Bryce up to date on the work of AWCH, specifically our programs and our funding challenges and goals.

We talked at length and the Governor General expressed a real interest in our Ward Grandparent Scheme. She saw immediately that this program is quite unique in that it not only offers support and much needed assistance to sick children and their families but it also is a wonderful vehicle to support “healthy aging”.

To that end the Governor General offered to host a

meeting at Admiralty House with a group of key people from child health, seniors, and not for profit sectors to discuss the Ward Grandparent Scheme.

The meeting was designed to inform the group of the work of AWCH - our history and achievements - and to then discuss ways to raise the profile of AWCH to gather both additional funding and more volunteer Ward Grandparents.

All those who attended the meeting were keen to develop sustainable ways of working together/ partnerships to further mutual outcomes in the areas of helping sick children and their families and by doing this supporting healthy aging through volunteering.

Those invited to attend the meeting hosted by the Governor General included:

- * **Ms Elizabeth Broderick, Sex Discrimination Commissioner and Commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination, Human Rights Commission**
- * **Mr. Ian Yates - Chief Executive, Council on the Ageing (COTA)**
- * **Mr. Michael O’Neill - Chief Executive Officer, National Seniors Australia**
- * **Ms Theresa Kot – President, Association of Independent Retirees**

- * **Dr Cassandra Goldie - Chief Executive Officer, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)**
- * **Mr. Bruce Allen – Regional Manager, Rotary Foundation, South Pacific and Philippines**
- * **Ms Rowena Millward - Director Marketing Services & Affairs, Johnson & Johnson Pacific**
- * **Ms Helen Wiseman - Chair, Shine for Kids**

At the Governor General’s request, Elizabeth Broderick chaired the meeting and did a fantastic job!

The meeting was very successful and it is anticipated that specific activities will flow from the discussions that occurred and continue to occur.

AWCH will keep all members and supporters informed of the key outcomes as soon as they become clearer.

NSW Governor hosts AWCH

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MARCH 2010



On a beautifully balmy night in March the AWCH Board and a total of 80 invited guests were fortunate enough to enjoy an evening reception hosted by the NSW Governor, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, at Government House.

The Governor very kindly offered to host the event to honour our 37 years of work serving sick children and young people and their families. The occasion was also an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the contribution that Professor David Bennett has made to AWCH over many years.

David, a past-President of AWCH, served in that capacity for five years, however, his association

with AWCH goes back more than 20 years. During his time as President, David led the restructure and reorganisation of AWCH, enabling us to be a truly national organisation. At the Reception, the Governor presented David a Life Membership for his service and contribution to AWCH.

David is an adolescent health physician, who pioneered Australia's first hospital-based adolescent medical unit, was the longstanding Head of Adolescent Medicine at The Children's Hospital at Westmead (1977 - 2004) and is currently Director of the NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health at Westmead.

And of course David is also an AWCH Ambassador!

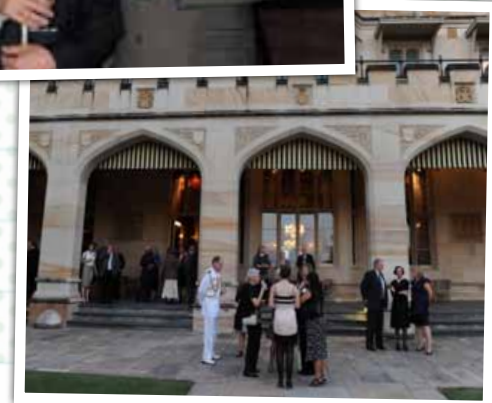
Thank you David for continuing to support our work and the team – we appreciate it very much!



Professor David Bennett receiving his AWCH Life Membership from NSW Governor, Professor Marie Bashir.



Associate Professor Gerard Willem's playing Beethoven



Our Youth Representative

ANNELISE GRINDROD



The following appeared in Annelise's school magazine earlier this year! We were thrilled she was able to attend representing young people and children across Australia.

Earlier this year, I attended the Reception at Government House and met with Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO. The reception was held in honour of The Association for The Wellbeing of Children in Hospital (AWCH), with whom I am a Youth Representative.

It was an amazing evening, speaking with Her Excellency about children and young people facing difficulties in their lives through ill health or disability, but also how AWCH helps these young people and their families. We were very privileged to hear the eminent concert pianist, Gerard Willems, play Beethoven's Andante Favore on a truly magnificent grand piano which is rare, being one of three made by the Sydney firm, Beale and Co c.1900. The music was truly incredible and would send shivers down anyone's spine.



AWCH is a national organisation advocating for the needs of children, young people and families within the health care system in Australia. I love working with all the people involved with AWCH and it is very powerful to be able to speak out and help make a difference for children and young people in our health system.

Government House was very beautiful. It was built in 1846 and in the State Rooms, we saw a remarkable collection of antique Australian furniture, pictures and decorative arts. The view from the gardens was pretty stunning too.

Annelise Grindrod, Year 11

Our Fabulous **WARD GRANDPARENTS**

The Ward Grandparent Scheme is our flagship program. It is without doubt one of our most important initiatives. The need in the community for this program is significant and it is clear the program should be operating across all Australian States.

We cannot make this happen without additional funding. It is our sincere hope that the connections we have made as a result of the meeting hosted by the Governor General will help us raise the profile of AWCH and the profile of the Ward Grandparent Scheme. If we can achieve this and an increase in funding we can take the Ward Grandparent Scheme to sick children and their families in hospitals across Australia. This would be a huge benefit to many children and their families and a most significant achievement and for AWCH.

For those readers who do not know about the Ward Grandparent Scheme here is some history and a brief update

The AWCH Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme is a support and respite care service for families who are unable to be with their child during hospitalisation because of restrictions imposed by distance, family, work or parental health needs.

The Scheme was first established by AWCH in 1986 at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children and has now expanded into 14 hospitals. The Ward Grandparent Scheme has become a highly regarded service in all major NSW children's hospitals as well as hospitals with paediatric wards and rural hospitals. The Scheme has expanded to the ACT and Tasmania.

Currently, the Ward Grandparent Scheme operates in:

- * **The Children's Hospital Westmead, NSW**
- * **Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick, NSW**
- * **Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW**
- * **Allowah Presbyterian Children's Hospital, Dundas, NSW**
- * **Gosford Hospital, NSW**
- * **John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW**
- * **Port Macquarie Base Hospital, NSW**
- * **St George Hospital, Kogarah, NSW**
- * **Campbelltown Hospital, NSW**
- * **Liverpool Hospital, NSW**
- * **Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, NSW**
- * **Sutherland Hospital, NSW**
- * **Manning Base Taree, NSW**
- * **Royal Hobart Hospital, Tasmania**

We have **55 active Ward Grandparents**, mostly "Ward Grannies". Each year some **5,000 hours will have been donated** by grandparent volunteers.

For example, at **Sydney Children's Hospital, Westmead** in a 12 month period between 13 and 15 "Ward Grans", work **approximately 3000 hours supporting between 40 to 50 families**.

In 2007 our **47** Ward Grandparents worked a total of **5,413 hours** or **722 days** supporting **755 children** across NSW and the ACT.

In 2009 the Ward Grandparent Scheme was a **state award winner** in the NSW Community Service/ Volunteering Awards category.

AWCH is in constant receipt of requests from hospitals, clinicians and families to extend the Scheme to hospitals where it is not operating as well as to provide more support to those programs already in operation.



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OUR FABULOUS WARD GRANDPARENTS



*Ward Grandparents at our Reception
at NSW Government House in March*



Christmas Lunch in Sydney 2010

TO THANK OUR WONDERFUL WARD GRANDPARENTS



**For more information about the
Hospital Ward Grandparent Scheme
or to volunteer please contact us:**

Association for the Wellbeing of Children
in Healthcare (AWCH)

Bldg 7, Gladesville Hospital, Cnr Victoria
& Punt Roads, GLADESVILLE NSW 2111

T: 02 9817 2439

F: 02 9879 4346

E: awch@awch.com.au

W: www.awch.org.au



Have you considered

A BEQUEST TO AWCH?

Recently we have received some requests for information regarding bequests. So we decided to provide some general information to all our readers about how to set up a bequest.



Your Will is one of the most important documents that you will ever prepare. It ensures that the people and organisations you care about are provided for after your death. In preparing your Will, your first concern will obviously be for your family and others close to you. After providing for the financial security for your loved ones, you may like to consider including a bequest to AWCH.

The Importance of a Will

A Will is a legal document that allows you to choose who receives your belongings and assets after your death. Everyone should have a Will. Often a Will is the last thing we want to think about. However, a Will is

the only way you can ensure your loved ones and the causes you believe in are provided for after your death.

It is always easy to put off making a Will, but without one, your assets (e.g. property, car, superannuation, jewellery etc) will be distributed according to the laws of the State. These rules apply to everyone and do not take account of your individual circumstances or what you may have wanted.

Not having a Will can cause a great deal of worry and expense for your family.

Changing Your Will

If you have a Will, and you wish to make minor changes, such as adding a bequest, you don't need to start all over again. You can make changes easily by adding a codicil. A codicil is a legal addition to the Will.

There are special rules about codicils, so it's a good idea to get a solicitor to do this.

A codicil must be signed and witnessed in the same way that the Will is.

Making a Bequest

Bequests can be made in a variety of ways, all of which depend on your personal circumstances and your preferences.

Your bequest can be for general purposes to support all the work of AWCH or it could be for specific programs such as the Ward Grandparent Scheme or the AWCH Library and Resource Centre.

Unspecified funds are of the greatest assistance to AWCH as they help us to develop a funding pool that will grow and be of benefit in perpetuity.

You may choose to bequeath:

- * **the residue of your estate or a percentage of the residue after providing for your family and friends and once all debts and expenses are cleared;**
- * **a specific sum of money;**
- * **a specific asset - for example real estate, shares, debentures, art works or other forms of investments.**

Suggested Wording to Make AWCH a Beneficiary

"I bequeath unto The Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare (AWCH), Gladesville Hospital, Building 7, Cnr Victoria & Punt Rd, GLADESVILLE NSW 2111 (for example: all of my residuary estate; percentage of my residuary estate; the sum of \$_____ ; specific assets, etc) for its general purposes free of all

Making a request

succession, estate and other death duties and declare that the receipt of the Director or other proper officer of AWCH shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors in respect thereof.”

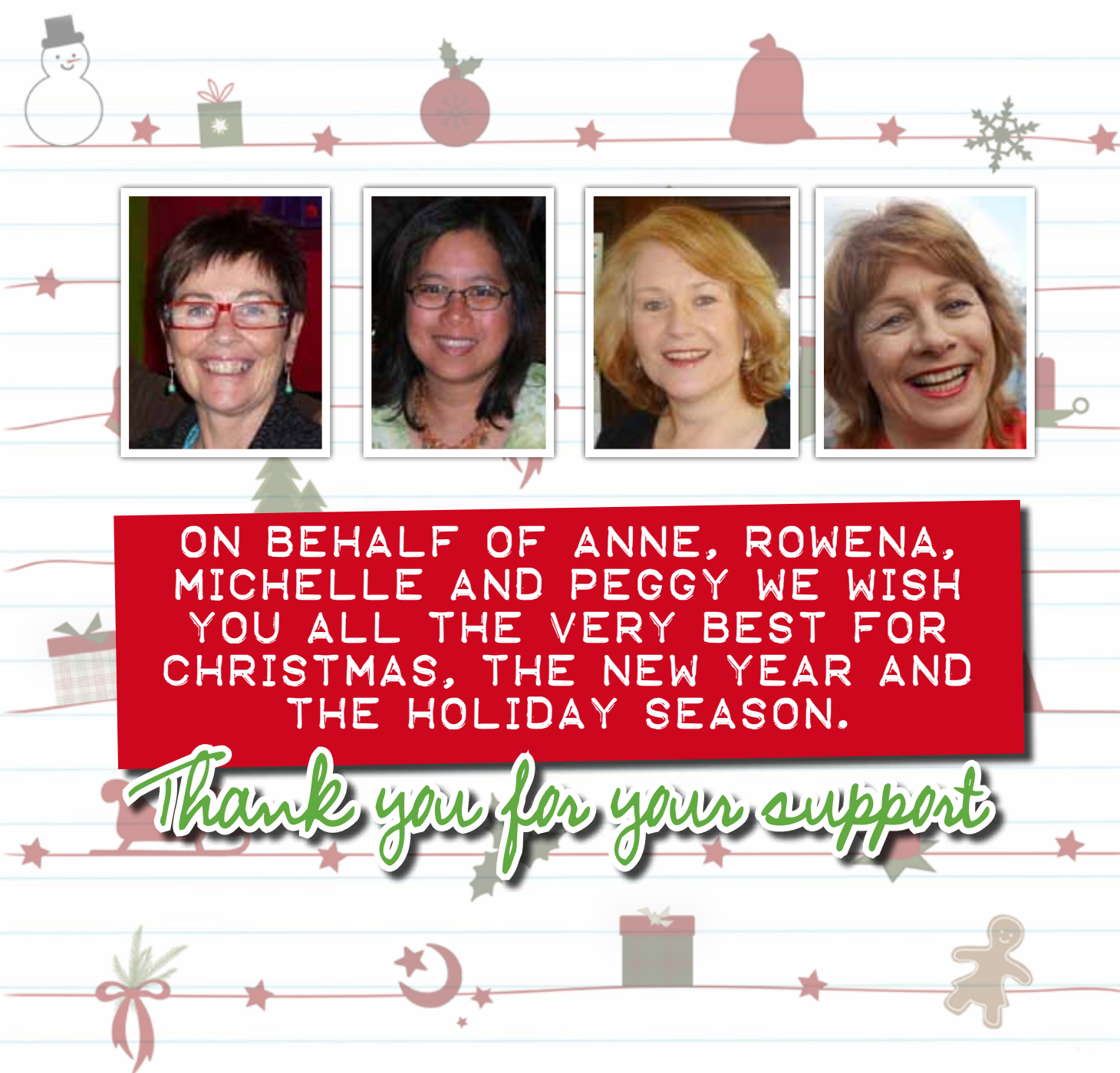
Any amount you choose to leave to AWCH will be very much appreciated. Your support will help us continue to provide support and services to sick children and young people and their families around Australia. The Australian Taxation Office has endorsed AWCH as a deductible gift recipient and an income tax exempt charitable entity for income and capital gains tax purposes.

Honouring Your Support

If you do decide to name AWCH in your Will we would very much appreciate advice from you or your solicitor. Whilst you are not obliged to provide this advice and we would not need any details of your bequest, confirmation does assist with our planning and enables us to thank you personally.

For further information or a confidential discussion please contact Michelle Sloane, our Executive Director, who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Please call her on (02) 9817 2439.



ON BEHALF OF ANNE, ROWENA, MICHELLE AND PEGGY WE WISH YOU ALL THE VERY BEST FOR CHRISTMAS, THE NEW YEAR AND THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

Thank you for your support