

30 year Anniversary Dinner Introduction Speech
2 September 2005
Warren Westcott, State Director, ACSHE (NSW)

Good evening former trainees of the ACHSE Management Training Program, the Balmain Hospital Training Program and the Aboriginal Health Management Training Program and those associated with the Programs. I am Warren Westcott, State Director of the ACHSE and the Program Director for the Management Training Program. It is great to see you all here tonight. We have trainees from all three Programs tonight from the first trainee in the Balmain Program, Geoff Workman who started in 1965 through to current trainees in the MTP.

On your tables you are provided a Program for the night and also a short history of the three Programs which you can read later. Our thanks goes to Sue Brockway, Librarian for the College who researched the history. There is also a handout that Neville Boyce, our special guest tonight, provided for young managers over 20 years ago when they were starting their careers at Gosford Hospital. You should read it and see how good advice does not change over time.

We are gathered tonight to celebrate the 30 year Anniversary of the Management Training Program which commenced at Hornsby Hospital in 1975 with the support of the NSW Health Department. Since then the Program has operated continuously either from Hornsby Hospital or directly by the Australian College of Health Service Executives, making it one of the oldest Health Management Programs in the world, as far as we can ascertain. The UK NHS Management Training Program is only slightly older than our MTP.

The Hornsby Hospital Program commenced in 1975 after the Balmain Program ceased in 1973. The Balmain Hospital Program commenced in 1965, making this the 40 year Anniversary for that Program, following the vision of Ken Boylan, who was the CEO at the time, to set up a Program to provide practical managerial experience for trainees in all areas of the Hospital. Ken Boylan sends his apologies for not being able to make it tonight. He is well and on holidays in Queensland at present.

We will have a few words from Geoff Workman later in the night on the Balmain Program. However, there is one particularly interesting facet of the Balmain Program that isn't widely known and that is out of this relatively small Program which had probably 12-15 trainees go through it over the eight years it operated, it produced three State Presidents of the NSW Branch of the ACHSE and they were Bill Lawrence, Wayne Cahill and Ralph Watson and more remarkably they followed each other through the Presidency role of the College over the years 1988 to 1993.

By comparison, with 30 years of operations of the MTP and with nearly 300 trainees going through in that time, there has been only one State President, Sally Torr. Sally gives her apologies as can't be with us tonight.

The Hornsby Program came about from the vision and leadership of Stan Williams who was the CEO of the Hospital and one of the powerbrokers in the health industry at the time. He was involved in everything and being a charismatic and persuasive person he was able to get the NSW Health Department to support the establishment of the Program. Unfortunately Stan died last year.

However we have with us tonight Neville Boyce and his wife Colleen as our special guests. Neville was the CEO Gosford Hospital and later Central Coast AHS and a great colleague of Stan Williams. Later he will speak about the early years of the Management Training Program and the training and education of health managers (or administrators as they were known as in those days) that took place at that time.

The Aboriginal Health Management Training Program(AHMTTP) was commenced in 1997 as a partnership between ACHSE and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW (AHMRC) and it operated until 2004. It is now incorporated into the MTP. Some of the inspiration to get this Program under way came from another College stalwart, David Briggs who had been Neville's Deputy at Gosford Hospital and later went to Tamworth Base Hospital as the CEO. For those who know Dave Briggs, he won't let go an idea when he believes in it and this was the case with the AHMTTP.

Dave spent two years working on the Program, with a lot of support from a former MTP trainee, Katie Lawrence, who also put a lot of work into the project. They worked tirelessly with the AHMRC with people like Peter Fernando from the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service and Jeanie Maddison from the UNE. Later Scott Winch, one of the former trainees will speak about the Program.

I would like to pass on some apologies for the night from Stuart Schneider the President of the NSW Branch of the College and other members of the College Executive who could not be here tonight, but representing the Executive is David Connell our Treasurer. David is also a former Hornsby Trainee.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow Program Directors of the MTP and the AHMTTP who are here tonight who have served the College and the Programs very well over many years and they are Helen Wilson (many would remember Helen as Helen Smith when she was NSW State Director and then became the first National Director), Sue McAlpin who was my predecessor as State Director and Zane Rice who has been the AHMTTP Coordinator for five years and is still with the College developing Aboriginal Management Training Programs.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of the NSW Health Department who have funded the coordination of the Program for many years.

Would you now be upstanding while we toast the people who had the vision to establish the three training Programs, Ken Boylan, Stan Williams and David Briggs.

Toast.

Warren Westcott
State Director
2 September,2005