

OFFICE HOLDERS AND THE EXECUTIVE 2008-09

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- Tim Adam (President)
- Paul Tricker (Vice-President & Treasurer)
- Ros Winkler
- Catherine Cini
- Meg Moorhouse

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- Des Tobin
- Archdeacon Frank Lowe
- Jean Cheshire OAM
- Irene Renzenbrink
- Meg Renfrey
- The Rev'd Bob Ower
- Professor Terry Seedsman

Chapter Convenors

- Brenda Rutherford (Grampians)
- Anne Watt (Hume region, Shepparton)

Public Officer

- Tim Adam (President)

Sub-Committees

Assessment and Accreditation Board

- Paul Tricker (Convenor)
- Annie Cantwell-Bartl
- Bruce Rumbold

Ethics

- Ros Winkler

Finance and Management

- Tim Adam
- Paul Tricker

Staff

- John Edwards
(Executive Officer)
- Catherine Prescott (Membership Services Officer/Office Manager)
- Joanne Rockwell
(Finance Officer)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2009

Thank you for your continued support of NALAG (Vic) over the past 12 months. In the past year NALAG's focus has been supporting membership, delivering seminars and delivery of two projects for the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing. Your support allows the association to continue its important work.

Seminars

I am pleased to report that there has been successful seminars on '*Grief and Loss experienced by children who have a mentally ill parent*' and '*Where is my home now? Shared Care Issues and Challenges*'. The theme of Grief Awareness Week in 2008 was '*Living with Life's Losses*', a theme that echoed the focus of NALAG's project work in 2008/2009.

Project work

In the 2008-2009 year NALAG undertook loss and grief project work from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

The project '*Living with Life's Losses*' developed a loss and grief resource to support the work of carers, volunteers and practitioners/clinicians. In addition NALAG undertook some preliminary analysis relating to suicide postvention.

This project work provided NALAG with an opportunity to further develop its capacity and work. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Department of Health and Ageing for recognising the community's needs in the area of loss and grief and supporting the work of NALAG.

The year ahead

The next 12 months will be exciting and will see the expansion of the role of NALAG in training and professional development delivery. NALAG has signed a contract to deliver Block and Tackle™, a training program and train the trainer program that examines issues around non-finite grief and has broad application in the health and community services sector. Block and Tackle™ was developed by Dr Cynthia Schultz and the late Dr Elizabeth Bruce, (a former member of the NALAG Vic Committee of Management). We are also delivering a series of '*Nonfinite Grief*' workshops across Metropolitan Melbourne and Regional centres during 2009/2010. NALAG will also continue to seek funding for projects that develop the capacity of the community to respond to its loss and grief needs. As always I commend my colleagues on the Committee of Management for their commitment and dedication to the Association (and to the loss and grief sector) and I acknowledge the support provided by the members of our Association. I also thank NALAG's staff for their work throughout the year.

In the coming year I look forward to your continued involvement with NALAG and together improving the level of support available to people who are grieving.

Tim Adam

TREASURER'S REPORT 2009

General Comment

2008/2009 has been a year of closely monitoring income and expenditure. The major source of funding in this year was project funding. NALAG ended 2009 in an improved financial position with an operating profit of \$23,503.00. As at 30 June NALAG had Total assets of \$44,252.00. Liabilities total \$16,119.00. Net assets therefore are \$28,133.00 in 2009. (2008 = \$3,440.00).

Income

Grant income was the most significant component of NALAG funding in 2009, (71.3% of total funding). A pleasing growth in income from donations/fundraising was represented by sizeable donations received from the philanthropic and corporate sectors respectively, Lord Mayor's Trust (\$10,000.00) and the Bendigo Bank (\$10,000.00). Combined income from Seminars and membership remained fairly steady (2008 - \$27,821.00, 2009 - \$29,355.00).

Expenditure

As in all service organisation staffing costs continue to be the biggest single expenditure. Rent and storage represented the second biggest expenditure.

Other

I would like to thank Jan Collyer of J L Collyer and Partners for her effective and efficient audit process.

I would like to thank the staff of NALAG under the leadership of John Edwards, Catherine Prescott (Membership Services/Office Manager) and Joanne Rockwell (Finance Officer) as well as my colleagues on the Committee of Management.

Paul Tricker

NALAG'S WORK

NALAG's work is focussed on strengthening the community's capacity to effectively respond to its loss and grief needs. NALAG undertakes its work through three program areas.

- Community and Service System Development
- Community Education
- Membership and Accreditation Services

Community and Service System Development

The community and service system development program incorporates a range of activities that maintain and facilitate the development of appropriate responses to grief and bereavement in the community including

- Partnerships and collaborations with Government and community organisations to address loss, grief and bereavement issues
- Undertaking projects that inform the loss, grief and bereavement service system in relation to community need, public policy and service provision
- Supporting community networks and agencies (including NALAG Chapters) that are concerned about and respond to loss, grief and bereavement needs in the community

The community and service system development program undertakes activities to strengthen the community's capacity to respond to loss and grief issues and needs. The program has a particular focus on improving the availability and access to loss and grief services.

A central element of this program is the development and support of local and regional loss and grief service networks. This is achieved by providing practical support including the provision of resources, information and connection to the wider loss and grief sector.

NALAG also provides advice and consultation in relation to service development and support for local projects.

The program also undertakes projects to identify service needs and effective pathways to accessing the available services. In addition NALAG's regional Chapters meet regularly and undertake a variety of local activities.

This year NALAG has been involved in developing proposals to develop loss and grief information for carers, volunteers and practitioners including health and community

agencies who support people with loss and grief issues. NALAG has also been an active participant in the national review of the self regulation of psychotherapy and counselling.

Community Education

The community education program strengthens the community's capacity to respond to grief and bereavement issues and service requirements by providing information and raising awareness of grief and bereavement issues and services.

Two important elements of NALAG'S community Education Program are the 2008-09 Seminar series and Grief Awareness Week.

Professional Development

This year professional development sessions have been delivered to a range of organisations including the Victorian Farmers Federation (following the bushfires), the Office of Births, Deaths and Marriages and the Women's Information and Referral Network, (Developing strategies for dealing with Loss and Grief in the workplace).

Seminar Series 2008-09

Three seminars were held, the first in December 2008 - Loss is Unavoidable: Developing support strategies for the Workplace delivered by Ros Winkler.

The second seminar in Feb 09 'Grief and Loss Experienced by Children who have a Mentally Ill Parent' was delivered by Catherine Cini and the third seminar this year was held in March 09 and was entitled 'Where is my home now? Shared Care Issues and Challenges'. The seminar was delivered by Melissa brown and explored the loss and grief that may be associated with shared care of children.

GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK 2008

Grief Awareness Week aims to raise community awareness of the impact of loss and grief and how it affects individuals, families and communities and strengthen the community's ability to respond to loss and grief.

In 2008 the theme for Grief Awareness Week was 'Promoting Resilience Loss and grief work in the helping professions'.

Featured speakers

Keynotes presentations were given by Dr Bruce Rumbold, Faculty of Health Science, La Trobe University (*The emerging role of loss and grief work in the helping professions*) and Ros Winkler, Windana Drug Services, City of Boroondara and member of the Committee of Management of NALAG (Vic), (*What is special about loss and grief work*).

Membership and Accreditation Services

The membership and accreditation program strengthens the capacity of the community to effectively and appropriately respond to loss, grief and bereavement by:

- Developing and supporting organisations, community groups, practitioners and individuals who have a special interest in grief and bereavement
 - Maintaining and developing the loss and grief practitioner and organisation accreditation program
 - Maintaining and developing loss and grief training and education recognition program
 - Providing information and support for NALAG's accredited practitioners
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Membership Services

The Membership Program is a core activity of NALAG that informs and supports the loss and grief work and aspirations of its individual and organisation members. The general membership program engages a wide variety of individuals and organisations with a special interest in loss, grief and bereavement.

NALAG supports its members with information and opportunities to participate in the loss and grief sector including forums and seminars. NALAG draws on the knowledge, skills and experience of its membership through consultations and specialist committees.

2008/2009

Members support the work of NALAG and contribute to the development of the loss and grief sector in Victoria. NALAG (Vic) had 184 financial members in the 2008–09 year. Of these, 107 members were clinical members, (representing 58% of total membership compared to 66% of total membership in 2007–08). 21 memberships were organisations (representing 11.4% of total membership compared to 10% of total membership in 2007–08).

The Professional Accreditation Program plays an important role in establishing and

maintaining appropriate professional education, training and practice standards for loss and grief counsellors. Clinical members are full members of NALAG (Vic).



CHAPTERS

2008-09

Chapters provide NALAG members with an opportunity to strengthen their local / regional community's capacity to respond to loss and grief needs and issues by providing a local forum and network to exchange information and raise issues, a structure to undertake initiatives and provide mutual support among members, acting as a clearing house for communication and information and providing a local connection with the wider loss and grief sector.

The role of a Chapter is to:

- provide information on loss and grief to the local community.
- promote and undertake (where feasible) community education and awareness raising activities.
- utilise (where feasible) local opportunities to promote the role and purpose of NALAG.
- provide a local network and opportunities for mutual support for NALAG members, and other groups and services involved in loss and grief matters.
- advocate and lobby for the provision of appropriate loss and grief supports for the community.

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



J L COLLYER & PARTNERS
ACCOUNTANTS & AUDITORS

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LOSS AND GRIEF (VIC) Inc**

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LOSS AND GRIEF (VIC) INC** which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2009 and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and notes for the year then ended.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LOSS AND GRIEF (VIC) INC** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies are appropriate to meet the needs of members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

DIRECTORS
JANELL COLLYER FCPA, LIONEL R. ARNOLD CA B.BUS





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Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LOSS AND GRIEF (VIC) INC.**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LOSS AND GRIEF (VIC) INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2009 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with appropriate accounting policies; and
- (b) complying with appropriate Australian Accounting Standards.

Janet Collyer
J.L. COLLYER & PARTNERS

Dated: 13th October 2009