

Dear Members of Parkinson's NSW

I am writing to you out of great concern for our organisation. In the midst of the current Covid 19 epidemic I know you will have many concerns in your life. However, I would ask you to take the time to read this. It is not asking for money but for your involvement.

I believe the current state of our organisation, PNSW, has reached a stage where there is significant doubt about its reputation and survivability. This is fundamentally an issue of leadership, including financial management, which has been abrogated to management of the charity. Past Directors have previously raised some of these concerns, and I know these concerns are shared by many of you.

### Summary

**Financial Management:** The finances of the organisation have reached a stage where its survivability is in question. Administration expenses, including salaries, have nearly tripled in the last 3 years. From the most recently publicly available accounts in September last year, cash has declined to extremely low levels. This is despite record high levels of bequests. Any recovery from this situation will have been from the fortuitous receipt of bequests. Over the last 3 years PNSW has received \$6,000,000 in bequests or average \$2,000,000 per year as against an average of \$300,000 per year in prior years. All this has been spent, and not on service provision.

**Partnership & Collaboration:** Management seems to have adopted an approach of going it alone. There are many charities in the Parkinson's community, all trying to help those with the disease. Parkinson's NSW's relationship with these has been competitive, not cooperative. As another example of isolating themselves recently PNSW withdrew from the federal body, Parkinson's Australia. In addition, many in Support Groups do not feel they are included and listened to. This has reached the point where many in the Support Groups are not even members of PNSW. All this has been to the detriment of those with PD. The Support Groups are where "the rubber hits the road". They need PNSW to support them while they support others and not the other way around.

**Extraordinary General Meeting:** After many attempts to bring about the required changes, I believe the only way to accomplish this by the members requisitioning an Extraordinary General Meeting. If you share my concerns, I would ask you to print and sign the attached forms and return them to **15 Princes St McMahons Point 2060**. I am sorry for the inconvenience, but we wish to ensure that all bases are covered.

### Financial Management

Most concerning is that financial management has been poor and not transparent.

- Recurrent fixed administration expenses have nearly tripled in the last 3 years from \$1.08m to \$2.96m. These expenses do not include service provision or research.
- Fundraising, without bequests, has only increased \$556,000 or 57%. The reason for excluding bequests is that they typically take 5 to 7 years to eventuate. They are the results of fundraising efforts years before, not current initiatives. They are also unpredictable.

I understand that management in 2017 embarked on a supposed 5-year plan to build donations. However, it would be reckless to continue this plan on the current results after 3 years.

