

*The Association for Nurses Working in Older People's
Mental Health, Aged and Dementia Care*



P.O. BOX 3038 St Marys South NSW 2760

2018 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - PGNA PRESIDENT.

This year has been an interesting time for the PGNA. It has been a time when the PGNA came to a cross-road and at times certain radical and risky decisions had to be made.

Our enthusiastic and innovative executive have been working very hard to engage and communicate with our members to let you know what has been happening – in the organisation and also in the ‘psychogeriatric world.’

This has especially been through our quarterly newsletter with the added interest of the ‘Aged and Dementia Care’ members and information – look out in February for the next Newsletter!

Attached with this last Christmas newsletter of the year, is the fruit of our efforts we have achieved (Attach Executive achievements). We are not out of the woods yet, but we live in hope of working harder next year for our members and all those who work in aged care, dementia and mental health.

Introducing the 2019 [Executive of the PGNA](#)

President: Roderick Pirotta CNC

Vice President: Marianne Cummins RN

Treasurer: John Nadjarian RN

Secretary: Fraser McLelland CNC

Membership Secretary: Victor Borg RN

Ordinary Member: Nanette Fogarty CNC

Ordinary Member: Kurt Barben RN

At the AGM we also did something different by having an ‘Open Forum on Crisis in Psychogeriatrics’ with the History of POA and FPOA and PGNA and quite a

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discussion on what is has impacted change, and how to look forward to influence the Government Policy and the Specialty.

Some of our Priorities for 2019 are:

- We will improve and have more educational evenings for members through Webinars and Education by Zoom with discussions and advertise specialist education of interest to you the members;
- We endeavour to secure closer relationships with the Faculty of Old Age (FPOA) again and be able to organise frequent joint education sessions;
- We would like to increase our membership (this is aligned with improving our website, Newsletter and activities) and
- Have a voice on policies pertaining to the quality of care of our clients whom we care for in Acute Care, in the community and Residential Aged Care. Obviously, there is a lot to be done but we are working on specific issues, one thing at a time.

The meaning of Christmas and of this festive season is the gift of ourselves to those who we love and less fortunate than us with gratitude for who they are and not for how they look or behave. Therefore, let us continue to advocate for those people who deserve to be treated like human beings but some-how because of their mental health issues have their human dignity taken away from them because of their diagnosis.

On behalf of the Executive, I wish all PGNA members a HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR full of rest, joy and peace around you.

Roderick Pirotta
PGNA PRESIDENT.