

QUEENSLAND STOMA ASSOCIATION INC.
THE FIRST STOMA ASSOCIATION IN QUEENSLAND (EST 1960)

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NEWSLETTER
SUPPLEMENT TO 'OSTOMY AUSTRALIA'

September 2018

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

The financial year ended 30 June 2018 has again been one of excellent progress for QSA. Our membership at 30 June 2018 was 3,603, a net increase of 380 for the year. Appliances and other supplies distributed were valued at \$7.221 million. The cost of running the Association in 2017/18 was \$505,575 of which only \$180,891 was met from membership fees. The balance was made up from postage and packing charges, rental and investment income and the Commonwealth Government subsidy.

The ongoing support by the Commonwealth Government under the Stoma Appliance Scheme this year amounted to \$ 7.388 million and provided our members most of their appliances and other stoma needs without cost to them. Under the revised Department of Health requirements access by members to the Stoma Appliance Scheme will require payment of the Stoma Appliance Scheme Access fee which is currently \$60 with a reduction on presentation of a healthcare or pension card. This fee is determined by the Department of Health and helps meet costs incurred by QSA in supplying stoma appliances to meet the individual needs of members. From the 2019/20 financial year there will also be a small Association Membership Fee which will fund the activities of QSA not covered by the Stoma Appliance Scheme Access fee.

Continuing from last year we are now open Monday to Thursday from 8.30 am to 2.30 pm. We are also opening on the last Saturday of the month. A Brisbane support group for all members is now operating in conjunction with our opening hours on the last Saturday of the month. This year we have continued to operate an STN Clinic to provide advice and support for members. The Clinic operates every second Wednesday by appointment and is free to QSA members.

Support groups involving QSA members have continued to provide peer support for new and longer term members in Caboolture and the Sunshine Coast. The Brisbane Ostomate Support Visitor Service program operates in conjunction with Queensland Ostomy Association and offers advice and support to new members. We also sell a range of the ostomy puppets called the Gastronomists and we give a free puppet to children who join as new members.

Queensland Stoma takes an active role in the Australia Fund program. The countries we were involved in assisting this year were Philippines (Davao City), Kenya, PNG and Malaysia. QSA also transferred supplementary supplies to assist other Australia Fund coordinators. We are proud to be involved in the continuing success of the Australia Fund work.

I again wish to acknowledge that the success achieved by QSA is only possible because of the contributions made by our staff, voluntary officials and volunteer helpers. The Executive Committee and Kylie have worked together with our staff and volunteers to provide the planning and direction which form the basis of our successful operation. On behalf of the Executive I would like to say thank you to our staff and our volunteers for their work again this year and I would like to add my personal thanks for the assistance they have provided to me personally.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all our members for the support they have given to Queensland Stoma Association Inc. over the last year.

Gerald Barry AM

PRESIDENT

Advance notice of Christmas 2018 hours

Queensland Stoma Association Inc will cease operations for the Christmas break from 2.30pm on Thursday, 20th December 2018 and will recommence at 8.30am on Monday 7th January, 2019. Please note that the Christmas break will delay the availability of January 2019 orders for supply until mid-January.

Members who are concerned about the delay in January 2019 orders should (if eligible to do so) submit a double month order representing their scheme allowance for Dec 18 /Jan 19 by the end of November 2018 to ensure availability before the Christmas break.

Thank you to our wonderful Volunteers

Next time you get your completed order from Queensland Stoma Association, please spare a thought for our wonderful team of volunteers who very generously give their time to ensure that our members receive their much needed ostomy supplies.

From reception to warehousing to packing of parcels, the association simply could not function without this valuable team. **THANKS QSA VOLUNTEERS!**

We are always looking for new volunteers, so if you are keen to come along to assist us with our operations, please contact the association on 07 3359 7570 for more information.



Important information about changes to the Stoma Appliance Scheme Access Fee

The Department of Health have recently changed the way that the compulsory annual Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS) Access fee can be charged by Associations. Prior to the amendment, the SAS Access Fee was included within an association's annual membership fee. Effective immediately, stoma associations are now required to show the SAS Access Fee as separate to the association membership fee in all subscription communication. To meet the new requirements of the Department of Health, our annual fee will now appear as an Annual Subscription, being the compulsory annual SAS Access Fee (to be paid for access to the SAS – currently \$60 non concessional or \$50 concessional) + a QSA membership Fee.

The NDIS and Stoma Supplies.



The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) is the new way of providing support for Australians with a disability, their families and carers. The NDIS provides eligible Australians under the age of 65 living with a permanent and significant disability with the reasonable and necessary supports they need to live an ordinary life. As an insurance scheme, the NDIS takes a lifetime approach, investing in people with disability early to improve their outcomes later in life. The NDIS however does not replace existing mainstream health programs such as the Stoma Appliance Scheme (SAS). Persons eligible to register with both the SAS and the NDIS should therefore continue to obtain their stoma supplies in the usual way, that is by placing an order with their usual stoma association.

Happy Retirement Rita!

Last month we bid farewell to our long time employee Rita Gore who has decided to retire following many years with QSA.

On behalf of QSA members, committee and staff, we take this opportunity to thank Rita for her service and to wish her well in retirement.

1 July 2018 changes to Barrier Wipes

Just a reminder that 3M Cavilon Wipes and Trio Silesse No Sting Barrier Wipes are no longer available through the Stoma Appliance Scheme. Users of these products will either need to change to the spray version of the product, or select a new barrier wipe. Samples of alternative barrier wipes can be obtained from industry suppliers, the contact details of whom can be found on the back page of Ostomy Australia.

Reminders about placing an order....

- An order for stoma supplies can be submitted by mail, by fax, as an email attachment to admin@qldstoma.asn.au or in person;
- Product will be supplied in accordance with the product code quoted on the order, not by the description;
- Generally, we ask that orders be submitted by the 20th of the month for availability by the 10th of the following month. We understand that this is not always possible though so orders for the current month will be accepted until the third Thursday of the current month and, pending eligibility, will be supplied on a 2 week expected turnaround;
- If an order cannot be collected from our offices during business hours, postage of the order can be arranged. A postage packaging and handling charge applies to all postal orders and **must be paid in advance** of the order being dispatched by the Association unless prior arrangement has been made. Our p/p/h charge is \$10 for one standard months supply or \$15 for up to two standard months supply (sent as one parcel). A surcharge will apply to larger parcels to cover the higher cost of posting the parcel