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New national president for peak Australasian health management body

- **Dr Neale Fong brings 30 years' experience in leadership roles, incl as former Director General of WA Department of Health**
- **Election coincides with released of reviewed competency framework for health managers**

Dr Neale Fong, the current president of the WA Branch of the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM), has been elected the new national president at the national congress held jointly with the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) in Brisbane this week and attended by more than 500 delegates.

Dr Fong's election arrives just as the College rolls out a revised version of its competency framework in light of the completed work of the IHF (International Hospital Federation) Global Directory launched late in 2015. ACHSM was closely involved with developing these global competency statements.

'I am honoured to be elected as national president of ACHSM at this very important time,' Dr Fong said. 'Professionalising health management is a priority of mine and of the College and the updated version of our framework is timely. The ACHSM Board undertook this comprehensive review of the IHF Global Directory including a gap analysis against recent work in the region and indeed our previous framework.'

Dr Fong takes over from outgoing president Adjunct Professor John Rasa from Victoria who has been in the role for four years.

His current roles include Chairman of Bethesda Health Care, Chair of the WA Country Health Service, Professor of Healthcare Leadership at Curtin University, and Chair of the WA Government's Ministerial Suicide Prevention Council.

He is also Chair of the International Hospital Federation special interest group in Health Management which has been established to increase the professionalisation of healthcare management around the world, especially in developing countries.

Dr Fong is a leading health management professional with 30 years of experience in leadership roles which include former Director General of WA Department of Health, former CEO of St John of God Subiaco Hospital and former Chairman of the WA Football Commission.

He holds Bachelor Degrees in Medicine and Surgery, a Masters in Theological Studies and a Masters in Business Administration.

ACHSM is the national peak body for health leaders, managers and executives in Australasia working in private, public and not-for-profit organisations. ACHSM brings together health leaders to learn, network and share ideas with more than 2,000 members across Australasia.

In addition to the multiple professional development seminars and education support run throughout Australia by ACHSM, the College also support upcoming leaders through their health management fellowship, mentoring and internship programs. These programs are nationally recognised and are the peak certification that health leaders can obtain.

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About

The Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) is the peak professional body for health managers in Australasia and brings together health leaders to learn, network and share ideas. The mission of the college is to recognise, develop and support effective health leadership and management to deliver quality services and improve health and wellbeing. Visit achsm.org.au.