

CRANplus ANNUAL REPORT

PATRON'S MESSAGE

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I am proud once again to send a message of admiration and support to the officers, members and supporters of CRANA*plus*.

In a few weeks I will be setting out to attend the CRANA*plus* annual conference, taking place in Cairns, Queensland. This was the venue for the first encounter I had with CRANA*plus* nearly a decade ago. I am proud to serve as Patron of such a wonderful and valuable organisation, with far flung influence for good.

Over the year past, CRANA*plus* has seen continuity, progress and change:

- * Paul Stephenson remains Chair. He continues to offer fine leadership for which I thank him and praise him;
- * The organisation has identified a need for improved mental health services for the remote health workforce. It will be doing this through the development of a Mental Health Emergency course and in other ways. Mental health needs have long been neglected in Australia, partly as a consequence of our macho attitudes. I am glad that CRANA*plus* is giving leadership on this issue;

- * CRANA*plus* is also directing a number of its efforts to the broadening of membership engagement with global healthcare in our region and the world;
- * Drawing on 36 years of experience that goes behind CRANA*plus*, it is identifying the place that the organisation should hold in the broader field of global health; and
- * Time and energy have been spent developing safety and security resources for the remote workforce that undertakes such heroic work in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia.

I am delighted at the increasing focus of CRANA*plus* on global healthcare issues. This was a theme I adopted in my first talk nearly a decade ago. I urged an attitude of *thinking* globally and *acting* locally. We should share our experience in Australia with colleagues beyond our shores. Especially, we should do this in our region of Asia and the Pacific where our experience could give leadership and example.

One of my tasks over the last decade has been working with the United Nations Development Programme on the Global Commission on HIV and the Law and on the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Access to Essential Medicines. The response to HIV (and more recently to HCV – Hepatitis C) is a subject where Australians have experiences and successes to share. But how many Australians have heard of the *Sustainable Development Goals*? These were adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. They commit the international community of

nations to 17 important goals that are to be achieved by 2030. One of those goals is access to essential healthcare. This is stated in SDG3. It is a worthy and urgent goal. We must try to attain it for ourselves in Australia. We must also try, by assistance and example, to spread the message to our neighbours and the world.

To all my friends who are participants in the CRANAp*lus* adventure, I send felicitations and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Kirby', written in a cursive style.

The Hon. Michael Kirby AC CMG,
Patron of CRANAp*lus*
Former Justice of the High Court of Australia
Co-Chair of the International Bar Association
Human Rights Institute