

## **DR KEN CONOLLY**

I am a registered medical practitioner – MBBS (Qld) FACRRM. I have 33 years experience working in a rural medical practice. I have been the Medical Superintendent with Right of Private Practice at Herberton (Atherton Tablelands, North Queensland) since 01-11-1971, and am currently the longest serving MSRRP in the State. I have had experience with procedural medicine – obstetrics, anaesthetics, general and orthopaedic surgery, and continue to carry out numerous surgical procedures. I am principal of a medical practice which services 4 rural towns and currently employs five other general practitioners and 3 practice nurses. The practice hosts medical students, currently including several John Flynn and RAMUS scholars. The three main practice sites are accredited, and provide substantial after hours cover. One practice site (Ravenshoe) is a registered training practice, and has been involved in the training of rural registrars since 1996.

I have been a member of the Board of Far North Queensland Rural Division of General Practice since September 2000. I was elected as a Rural Director to the Board of Queensland Division of General Practice (QDGP) in September 2001, and was re-elected in 2003. My term on each of these Boards began at a time when the respective organizations were experiencing considerable difficulties. Consequently my experience on each Board has been a steep learning curve. I believe that as a result I have a substantial grasp of governance issues, relating both to proper financial management and to policy development. I have attended all of the Board training programmes held by both Boards since my terms began – this includes sessions on reading and interpreting financial reports, and extensive sessions on governance issues.

I have been an active and consistent contributor to policy debate and development especially at QDGP. I believe that a commitment to a team approach is demonstrated by my current work on the QDGP Board, as a member of the Governance and Agenda sub-committees. QDGP Board has provided me with an opportunity to develop an interest in improved meeting procedures, especially by chairing Board meetings.

I was elected to the Australian Division of General Practice (ADGP) Board as Queensland Rural Director in November 2003. Although this has been a short term, I believe that I have developed a considerable understanding of ADGP and its business in that time. This was facilitated by the opportunity to spend a working day in the ADGP office, meeting and consulting with staff.

If elected to the new Board, my energy would be devoted to promoting the development of a comprehensive range of performance management policies for the Board itself, the Chair, and the organization. This I believe to be a critical first step in addressing the several areas wherein ADGP is under-performing.