

Abstract

Mr. Robert Grima, President, Australian College of Health Service Executives – *“The role of professional colleges in strengthening health management leadership”*

A career in Health and Aged Care Management today requires tools, skills and support every step of the way. As one of the largest industries in the country the health system requires a wide range of management skills. The health world has changed dramatically in thirty years and solutions will not be found in a reactionary retreat to the old ways of health delivery, rather in a system that recognises its complexity, the need to work as a team of clinical and non-clinical professionals supported with the appropriate management skill and training

Established in 1945 as the Institute of Hospital Administrators the Australian College of Health Service Executives (ACHSE) today positions itself as the Leading Driver of Continuous Improvement to Health Care Management.

This paper will articulate the vital role a College of Health Service Managers has in fostering a culture of professional development and the development of the next generation of health leaders.

The paper will put forward the argument that ACHSE and indeed all Health Management Colleges have a legitimate role in:

- Facilitating and providing a forum for informed public debate on matters relating to Health Policy, Leadership and management.
- Providing strong advocacy for commitment and adequate funding for Health Management Education, Health Leadership programs and Continuing Professional Development for Health Managers.
- Providing strong advocacy for Tertiary Health Management Education at Degree and Post Graduate levels

Finally the paper will define the important, albeit intangible, role Collegiality inherent in ACHSE activities and the importance for Colleges to engender a spirit of Collegiality.

