I am pleased to submit the 2018 Annual Report for the Osteopathy Council of New South Wales (Council).

The number of new complaints this year is higher than in 2016/17.

The standards expected of registered health care professionals are high, and must remain so to protect the public from unsatisfactory professional performance or conduct. Consistent with the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW), the paramount consideration of the Osteopathy Council is protection of the health and safety of the public. To that end, the Council enjoys a close and collaborative working relationship with the HCCC.

Again in 2018, Stiofan Mac Suibhne and I accepted an invitation to speak to the final year osteopathy students at the Lismore campus of Southern Cross University. The aim of our address was twofold: (i) to impress upon the students that upon graduation and registration, the welfare of their patients should be their primary professional concern, and (ii) to inform them about the devastating professional, psychological and economic consequences that would flow from engaging in conduct below the standard reasonably expected of a practitioner of an equivalent level of training or experience.

Once again, the Council finished the year with a budget surplus, largely due to the surcharge that NSW practitioners pay to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency on top of their annual registration fee. This surcharge will be reviewed in 2018.

The Council is exceedingly grateful to those NSW osteopaths who assist the Council to fulfil its regulatory responsibilities by serving as performance assessors or as hearing members on Tribunals and impaired registrants panels. Council members are forever mindful that disciplinary and remedial proceedings are intellectually demanding and emotionally challenging.

The Council would also like to thank the HPCA staff dedicated to this Council, Mr Michael Jaques, Mrs Christine Gursen and Mr Anthony Tobin for their support and sound advice throughout the year.

I particularly want to thank Mr Stiofan MacSuibhne and Mr Stuart Hammond, who decided not to renominate for appointment when their term ends on 30 June 2018. Stiofan and Stuart were insightful, erudite colleagues who helped the Council become proactive, stable and efficient, and on a personal note, helped me enormously in my role as a new President when we first joined in 2012.

Our new members are osteopaths Dr Kerrin Murnane and Dr Terry Stewart commencing on 1 July 2018. Kerrin will fill the role of Deputy President. Ms Soraya Mir remains our legal member.

Ms Anne Cooper
President
Osteopathy Council of New South Wales
### SNAPSHOT

#### Practitioner information

- **582** osteopaths registered in NSW
  - 3.2% more than last year
  - 24.4% of registered osteopaths in Australia

#### Complaints received

- **13** NSW osteopaths had complaints made about them
  - 5 more than last year
  - 2.2% of registered osteopaths in NSW

- **15** new complaints were received
  - 4 more than last year
  - 1 complaint was a mandatory notification
  - 33.3% of complaints were about boundary violation
    - [n 5] followed by:
      - National Law offence – 4 complaints
      - National Law breach – 2 complaints

- **40%** of complaints were from patient (n 6) followed by:
  - other practitioner – 4 complaints
  - AHPRA – 2 complaints

#### Complaints managed

- **8** complaints were managed directly by the Council
  - 4 more than last year

- **2** assessments and hearings were concluded
  - 2 less than last year

- **0** immediate actions were considered or taken by Council
  - 3 less than last year

- **0** outcomes for closed complaints involved cancelled or suspended registration
  - 1 involved conditions on practice
  - 2 involved counselling or interview

#### Practitioners monitored

- **2** cases were being actively monitored at year end
  - 1 conduct
  - 0 performance
  - 1 health

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**Regulation of Osteopaths in 2017/18**

- **582** osteopaths registered in NSW
- **13** osteopaths had complaints made about them
- **15** new complaints were received
- **40%** of complaints were from patient
- **8** complaints were managed directly
- **2** assessments and hearings were concluded
- **0** immediate actions were considered or taken
- **0** outcomes for closed complaints involved
- **2** cases were being actively monitored
Council Members

Four members sit on the Osteopathy Council as prescribed by the National Law.

Registered osteopathy practitioner members:

- Ms Anne Cooper RN, DO, MMedHum
- Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne BSc (Hons) Osteopathy, PGCertEd, PG Cert Hlth Sci (Acupuncture), M Hlth Prac (Rehabilitation)
- Mr Stuart Hammond BAppSc (Ost), MOst

Legal member:

- Ms Soraya Mir BSc (Hons), LLB, LLM, Grad Dip Corp Govn, BPsych(Hons)

The NSW Governor appointed Ms Anne Cooper as the President and Mr Stiofan MacSuibhne as the Deputy President of the Osteopathy Council.

Dr Kerrin Murnane commences as Deputy President on Mr MacSuibhne’s retirement as Deputy President in July 2018.

Executive Officer

Ms Asha Mears is the current Executive Officer for the Osteopathy Council. Mr Michael Jaques was the previous Executive Officer. Ms Farina Bains and Mrs Christine Gursen also provided Executive Officer support to Council during the year. Their work is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. The Executive Officer leads a team that works directly and indirectly with the Council as part of the HPCA Combined Councils Team.

All staff working both directly and indirectly with the Council are employed by the HPCA as an executive agency of the Ministry of Health. Councils cannot employ staff under the National Law.

Council Meeting Attendance

The Osteopathy Council met eleven times.

Table 1: Member attendance at Council meetings, eligibility to attend and term of office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Meetings Attended</th>
<th>Meetings Eligible to Attend</th>
<th>Date of first appointment</th>
<th>Current Term of Office</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Anne Cooper - President</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 July 2012</td>
<td>1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne – Deputy President</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 July 2012</td>
<td>1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Stuart Hammond</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1 July 2015</td>
<td>1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Soraya Mir</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6 March 2013</td>
<td>1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council members are appointed for a term up to three years and may be reappointed up to a maximum of nine years.
Part 2: Reports from Health Professional Councils

Regulatory Committees and Panels
The National Law sets out the committees and panels that support the Council in undertaking its regulatory activities.

Regulatory committees and panels include:
- Assessment Committee
- Impaired Registrants Panels (IRP)
- Performance Review Panels (PRP)

The Council appoints regulatory committees and panels as needed.

The Council acknowledges and thanks the practitioners and lay members who assist with panels and hearings.

Council Committees
Councils may establish committees to assist with Council functions. Committee members are not necessarily Council members.

The Osteopathy Council did not appoint any committees during the year.

Meetings and Events
The Osteopathy Council was represented at the following meetings and events during the year.

Table ii: Osteopathy Council representation at meetings and events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Meeting / Event</th>
<th>Attended By</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic International Alliance Conference</td>
<td>Ms Anne Cooper – President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultation Forum on Mandatory Reporting Reform in the National Law</td>
<td>Ms Anne Cooper – President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Board Chairs and NSW Council Presidents joint meeting</td>
<td>Ms Anne Cooper – President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation at Southern Cross University Lismore</td>
<td>Ms Anne Cooper – President, Mr Stiofan Mac Suibhne – Deputy President</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overseas Travel
Overseas travel costs for the Osteopathy Council included attendance at the Osteopathic International Alliance Conference in Auckland, New Zealand by Ms Anne Cooper from 8 to 10 September 2017 at a cost of $677.85.
**Remuneration**

Council members received the following remuneration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Remuneration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>$2,336 per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deputy President</td>
<td>$1,752 per annum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council Members</td>
<td>$1,752 per annum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Council members also receive sitting fees for conducting Council Inquiries, attending committee meetings and undertaking other regulatory activities if these are on a day other than the regular Council meeting.

Council members are reimbursed for expenses when travelling on official business at Council direction. Panel and Tribunal members receive remuneration and reimbursement of expenses related to Council business.

**Education and Research Account**

The Osteopathy Council maintains an Education and Research account. This helps fund activities that promote better understanding of professional standards and compliance, issues that can lead to complaints and how complaints are managed. The account may also be used to fund relevant research activity including both Council specific initiatives and collaborative projects.

There was no expenditure from the Education and Research account this year.

**Financial Management**

The Osteopathy Council’s accounts performance was reported in the Financial Statement as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accounts Performance 2017/18</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>208,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure</td>
<td>175,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain / (loss) on disposal</td>
<td>(32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result</strong></td>
<td>33,009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash reserves</strong> (cash and cash equivalents minus current liabilities)</td>
<td>214,509</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Included in the cash reserves is an Education and Research bank account balance of $231.

The Osteopathy Council’s budget for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget 2018/19</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>205,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenditure</td>
<td>231,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result</strong></td>
<td>-26,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full financial statements are presented in Part 3 of this report ‘Financial Statements for NSW Health Professional Councils’.