

A TRIBUTE TO AND IN MEMORY-DR. DAVID BRIGGS (1948 – 2024) AM BHA (NSW), MHM PHD (UNE), DR PH (HON.NU), FACHSM, FHKCHSE

- *Editor-in-Chief of Asia Pacific Journal of Health Management 2007 to 2022*



Dr. David Briggs served as the Editor-in-Chief for the APJHM for 15 years and was responsible for the formation, development and steering the professional growth and impact of this publication. David was appointed by the Australasian College of Health Service Management (ACHSM) in

the second year of the journal's establishment which was introduced as the College's own applied, peer reviewed journal aimed at communicating the development and practice of the field of health management within the Asia Pacific region. David held strongly to his vision - *We are committed to being inclusive and seen as a practitioner journal that has a mix of academic and operational management authors. We encourage analysis of management practice, perspectives, public policy as well as research.* Through this work and leadership, he held to the need for a profession to have a deep specialised body of knowledge and mechanisms to contribute to and share that knowledge. As Editor, David promoted inclusiveness, outreach, research and experiential learning at the national and international levels.

David contributed to patient care and health system development over many years and through a unique career range of roles and contributions. He was a senior executive and chief executive in NSW hospital and health service delivery; engaged in academic roles for health management as a researcher, author and teacher and as an active adjunct professor at three universities including two in Thailand; was a long-term serving President of the Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (SHAPE) that promotes excellence in health service management education and research in Australia, New Zealand, Asia and the Pacific; as a health and aged care services accreditation surveyor with

the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards and the Aged Care Standards; as well as in governance responsibilities as Chair of the New England Medicare Local and then Deputy Chair of the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network.

David believed that ... *being a professional requires an expectation that you contribute and give back to your profession and encourage others in their career and in these commitments.* He was part of the ACHSM College for some 50 years. He took on formal responsibilities as National and NSW State President and served on many committees and working groups. He mentored and supported emerging and senior leaders and managers in their careers across Australia, in Asia and other parts of the world. In 2004 he was awarded the College's Gold Medal for exceptional leadership and his pursuit of excellence in health services delivery in the country. He was subsequently awarded life membership of the College.

David was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in 2020 for significant service to the community, health management and to education.

On many occasions, and it was truly clear, David identified that his approach, work and commitments were through and with his family – we give sincere condolences to Mrs. Val Briggs, David's immediate and extended families. We thank them for what they have done for the profession.

In 2006, representatives of the then ACHSM Federal Council, national office staff, SHAPE and interested College members came together to develop the proposed College journal - APJHM. We are indebted to David for his large role in enabling it and encouraging professional participation.

Dr Mark Avery
Editor-In-Chief