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29th ANNUAL REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the 29th Annual report for 2004 / 2005. As with previous years the ARC continues to review, develop and promulgate resuscitation guidelines within Australia. This is a fundamental task of the ARC and will continue to take precedence into the foreseeable future.

In a number of the previous annual reports I eluded to the ARCs ongoing involvement in developing Consensus 2005. This was an ILCOR led project to extensively review the evidence pertaining to resuscitation and publish "*Consensus on Resuscitation Science and Treatment Recommendations (CoSTR)*". The process commenced almost three years ago involving ILCOR member organisations and culminated with a major evidence review conference in January 2005 in Dallas. The CoSTR document will be published in the journals Resuscitation and Circulation in late November 2005 and be used by the resuscitation councils to develop their guidelines.

The foundations of this process was the evidence based reviews that were completed for numerous topics relating to basic, advanced, paediatric and neonatal life support as well as interdisciplinary topics. In addition reviews were also undertaken in acute coronary syndromes, stroke and first aid. In total, over 400 evidence based worksheets were completed. Of these **44** were completed under the auspices of the Australian Resuscitation Council by either council members or topic experts from around Australia. In addition, Australia also had major roles in providing worksheet experts and taskforce chairs. This is an outstanding effort and the ARC gratefully acknowledges the contributions made voluntarily by these individuals. There is no doubt that the ARC has made a significant contribution to this exciting international effort.

The ARC approved the accreditation of Advanced Life Support courses in Australia. Specific details of the accreditation process and criteria for assessment are being finalised and will allow providers of ALS courses to seek endorsement from the ARC for their courses. In addition, the ARC has also agreed to administer and co-badge the Resuscitation Council (United Kingdom) advanced life support and intermediate life support courses.

The ARC is also seeking to co-badge the Paediatric Advanced Life Support Course (PALS) currently being run in Australia. Council believes this to be an important initiative in promoting ALS training and facilitating and standardising ALS courses in Australia.

In April of 2005 we held the ARC's 5th Spark of Life conference in Adelaide. This was the first time the Spark of Life conference had been held outside of Melbourne and it was an outstanding success. Over 500 delegates attended to hear international, national and local speakers present cutting edge information on many aspects of resuscitation. Feedback from the conference supported rotating the conference venue and holding the conference every two years rather than three. The Council will consider these suggestions. I thank the organising committee, speakers, attendees and in particular Carol Carey our Administrative Officer for making this such an outstanding event.

The next twelve months will be equally busy for the Council. With the CoSTR document becoming available the Council will need to evaluate and integrate this information and where appropriate, revise our existing guidelines. We are acutely aware that guidelines need to be updated in a timely manner and we are anticipating releasing, where indicated, these revised guidelines in March 2006. In addition, the ARC will be further developing the processes surrounding ALS course accreditation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ARC's Executive Committee, Carol Carey (ARC's Administrative Officer) and Councillors for their ongoing efforts in ensuring the ARC remains Australia's peak resuscitation body. Finally in closing this report I would like to acknowledge the enormous contribution of Associate Professor Vic Callanan. Professor Callanan represented the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists on Council for the past 16 years and served as Council Chair from 1993 to 2000. In July 2005, Professor Callanan decided to stand-down from the ARC. His knowledge, commitment and wisdom will be sadly missed. On behalf of the ARC we extend our sincere thanks to Vic and wish him well for the future.



Associate Professor Ian Jacobs
Chairman

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Australian College of Ambulance Professionals

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