

30 March 2020

Here is a message from Cystic Fibrosis Australia's President, Patrick O'Connor ...

What A Team ... We Thank You

The spread of COVID-19 is a great concern to the Cystic Fibrosis community in Australia and around the world. While there have been positive moves in Australia to slow the spread and contain the disease, there is no doubt that the outbreak is putting strain on people living with CF, the health system and health professionals.

I recently attended a presentation about preparations in one CF clinic. An impressive amount of work had been done in a short time to build up resources, train up staff and streamline essential work. The speed at which plans were being put into action in the CF area was astonishing given the huge changes occurring in hospitals and health administration. One of the most obvious things was the incredible dedication of the CF clinical team members and the preparations they were making to ensure support for the CF community.

After the presentation I contacted the clinical lead to express my admiration for the wonderful work the team was doing and the extremes they were going to protect people with CF.

There are many stories of health workers stepping up in these challenging times, but the story I heard about the CF team adds to years of hearing about them going above and beyond expectations even in normal times.

I wanted to express thanks on behalf of CFA and encourage the efforts being made.

The clinical lead answered my email by telling me that the CF community inspires them to always look for ways to improve their care. That the CF team has received many messages of care and concern for the staff from CF patients and families. I also see many social media posts from people living CF about their amazing care teams and the 'heroes' and champions who look after them.

Our respect and service of each other will be one of the marks of how well we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Our concern for each other will make these challenging times memorable and not just bearable. The CF community looks for excellence in its care and shares excellence in its relationship with health professionals.

At CFA we are inspired by the people on whose behalf we work. CFA will continue to ensure services are available and improved to deal with current pressures.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Patrick O'Connor
President
Cystic Fibrosis Australia