

## Tom Cloher

I have great pleasure in supporting SHAPE in offering Tom Cloher life membership of the Society for Health Administration Programs in Education.

During the early 1980s I was an academic colleague of Tom's in the Elton Mayo School of Management at the South Australian Institute of Technology. During this time we spent many hours discussing the challenges confronting health administration education programs throughout Australia and New Zealand. Apart from the program at the University of New South Wales, these programs, like ours at the Institute of Technology, were relatively small, isolated and easily buffeted by university restructures and politics.

Tom is a man of action and a man of vision. He decided to do something to improve the lot of health service management education programs in the South Pacific region. He applied and negotiated a generous grant from the WK Kellogg Foundation to support the establishment of the Secretariat for Health Administration Programs in Education. This Secretariat was constituted in 1985 with a 12 member Board of Management and an Executive Director, who was Tom. Among the Chairperson's of this prestigious body were Professor Lawrence Malcolm, University of Auckland and Professor Geoffrey Prideaux, RMIT.

The objective of SHAPE in 1985 was 'to contribute to better health for the people of its region by promoting better management education for health service managers'. Strategies listed included facilitation of collaboration amongst health service management educators and between educators and managers, national and international networking with bodies with similar aims to SHAPE, and quality improvement of the educational content and processes of health administration programs through workshops, research and facilitation of program accreditation in collaboration with ACSHE.

In 1991, the Secretariat was reconstituted and renamed the Society for Health Administration Programs in Education (i.e., SHAPE as we now all know it). At this time, the then Chair of the retiring Board of management honoured Tom with the following comments which I fully support:

The Board notes with great appreciation the energy, enthusiasm and initiative displayed over the past six years by its foundation Executive Director, Tom Cloher. He has been the driving force behind the establishment and development of SHAPE. Without his dedication and application SHAPE would not be held in the high regard it is today at both national and international level. The board resolves to offer Mr Cloher the title of Honorary Life Fellow in recognition of his unique contribution to the organisation'.

Today we would like to honour you with Life Membership of the **Society** for Health Administration Programs in Education.

However, before I do that I would like to read the following testimonial from one of Tom's ex-students who is now a senior manager.

Mary G Harris, MPH, PhD  
SHAPE Symposium 7-8<sup>th</sup> July 2005

## **To Whom It May Concern**

It is with much pleasure that I write a testimonial for Tom Cloher as a former Health Services Management student of Tom's and in my capacity as National Junior Vice President of the Australian College of Health Services Executives.

Tom pioneered and provided sterling leadership in Health Services Management tertiary programs and was the driving force behind the Elton Mayo School of Management at the then South Australian Institute of Technology.

Tom was a role model for many of his students and indeed a role model for me both as a student and my development through ACHSE. My relationship with Tom continued after my completion of health services management studies and we regularly had a philosophical lunch together to solve the problems of not only the South Australian and Australian Health System but the international one as well.

Tom's ability to analyse what seemed to be a complex system of health care delivery and reduce it to common sense basic actions together with his passion for health care management studies and continuing professional development is to be commended.

Tom's penchant for traditional protocols provided me with an excellent model to follow during my term as ACHSE State Branch President. Both in my health executive position and ACHSE position I have often asked myself what Tom would do when confronted with this issue. The strategy to move forward has come much more quickly.

In short I commend Tom Cloher for his outstanding commitment to the education of health service Managers.

**Robert Grima ASACPA FCHSE AFAIM  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Dental Association SA Branch  
National Junior Vice President ACHSE**