The annual meeting is a significant event in Alfred Health’s calendar. **Significant** as it’s an opportunity to demonstrate how we have served our community in the year, delivering responsive and high quality care. **Significant** as we reflect on our achievements for the year and the important partnerships with staff, other health care providers, community agencies and government that make this possible. And **significant** because it’s a time to talk about our future plans for developing a health service able to meet the needs of tomorrow as well as today.

In 2016–17 Alfred Health delivered a strong result that carefully balanced timely quality care with expert clinical governance and sound financial management. During the year we cared for the whole Victorian community as well as people in our local catchment. While there was growth across Alfred Health, our 14 statewide services such as trauma, rehabilitation and burns – was where we saw the most significant areas of growth.

We made great advances in research including progression on a landmark peanut vaccine and establishment of Australia’s first dedicated blood cancer research centre. We were also home to Australia’s Clinical Trial of the year.

Importantly there was significant progress in developing the Alfred Health of the future. The eTQC program that will deliver a fully electronic medical information system advanced substantially and the planning for new and improved infrastructure, moved us closer to a new development on this site.

From the Board’s perspective, this is an encouraging performance. We can genuinely say to our community that Alfred Health has continued to deliver the healthcare that you can rightfully expect from one of Australia’s leading health service.

Michael Gorton, Board Chair of Alfred Health