

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIA | JUNE, 2021

'I am very much looking forward to creating a stronger partnership, one that ultimately helps both CIMA and ICISF pursue our missions'

**Rick Barton Chief Executive Officer
International Critical Incident Foundation Inc**

When I last wrote to you in May 2020, I made reference to COVID 19 and included a quotation from Winston Churchill suggesting that, at that point in time, we may have been at the end of the beginning. Perhaps, with the rollout of vaccines, we may be approaching the beginning of another phase but the pandemic is still with us and the world, as we knew it, has changed.



Rick Barton's statement reflects the strong and mutually supportive relationship that has been established over the past 12 months. I had the pleasure of joining John Durkin in a short video, which was included in the program of the recent international three day virtual ICISF World Congress, highlighting this newly forged relationship

An issue which had been unresolved for many years has been ICISF's recognition of the qualifications of some Australasian trainers to teach ICISF courses and award certificates. I am pleased to announce that this issue has now been resolved. The path forward has the full support of Rick Barton and the Board of ICISF. It involves John Durkin, a member of CIMA's Committee of Management and member of the ICISF Board, conducting short 'Train the Trainer' updates to enable all current trainers to have their qualifications recognized by ICISF and subsequently conducting 'Train the Trainer' courses for new trainers.

Recognition is due to both Gina Mammone and Lindsay Smith, who have resigned from the Committee of Management. Gina has most recently served as Vice President and has given freely of her time over many years. Lindsay has contributed as Training Coordinator and NSW Representative and again has given many hours to CIMA. Both are held in high regard and our gratitude goes out to both.

In 2020, CIMA was successful in obtaining a City of Melbourne COVID Project Grant to develop an online and e-commerce training package. The onset of the pandemic highlighted the needs of frontline workers for increased Peer Support and Psychological First Aid (PFA) methodologies and training. CIMA developed a training video and a training program entitled 'A Crisis Intervention Perspective on PFA' and this was trialed with Peer Support members at St Vincent's Health Melbourne (SVHM). Evaluations and feedback were positive. Concurrently, an evaluative project on measuring staff wellbeing at SVHM during COVID 19 is also underway.



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Planning has commenced for CIMA's 2021 Conference in October and a working group is meeting regularly to make it happen. Given the world we currently live in, it is likely that much if not all of the conference will be virtual but this has yet to be decided. Updates will be provided as they come to hand.

One of the benefits of the impact that COVID 19 has had internationally is a growing acceptance of video/virtual training. This actually offers a range of exciting opportunities, cuts time, travel and accommodation costs for attendees and makes training readily accessible. It also allows CIMA to reach out and engage with potential trainers, participants and speakers for our conference on a truly international scale. CIMA will soon launch a number of such training events, both ICISF accredited and broader CIMA courses. We will keep you informed as these become available.

CIMA remains committed to those who work in Crisis Intervention in general and specifically those who work at the front line providing these services.

Best Wishes,

PETER KUEFFER

President