

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

AUSTRALIA | DECEMBER, 2021

As the year draws to a close, COVID 19 is still very much with us. Just when we thought that vaccination would bring an end to the pandemic, OMICRON has appeared and is spreading rapidly across the globe. It appears that easing of restrictions in Australasia may be short lived.

Already, countries across Europe are locking down again. It is also apparent that modelling and planning for the DELTA strain may not apply to OMICRON. Any plans of living with the virus in a COVID Normal state have been derailed by what may be a continuing emergence of mutations.

Perhaps it's because of this environment that CIMA's recent virtual conference, PANDEMIC TRAUMA - PERSON PLACE ENVIRONMENT was such a success. Our aim was to offer this conference as the first in a series which reflect the changing nature and impact of COVID 19.

The keynote speakers and panel comprised of people working on the front line of crisis intervention in the pandemic. Their lived experience reflected CIMA's commitment to relevant and practical supports to those of us who have to deal with the impact of COVID 19.

During 2021, the relationship with ICISF has continued to strengthen. CIMA is now officially a partner of ICISF and the two organizations now have both logos on their websites. It has been a privilege to have ICISF request this mutual relationship via the sharing of logos.

In conjunction with the above, a train the trainer program to be conducted in Australia has been agreed to by the ICISF Faculty. This will enable the accreditation of ICISF Approved Instructors in Australasia without the necessity of having ICISF conduct this training. This is a significant achievement for CIMA given ICISF's criteria for train the trainer programs.

Throughout 2022, CIMA will be offering a rolling program of events, training and webinars which reflect the organization's commitment to education and support. The growing acceptance of virtual on line training is, paradoxically, a positive outcome of the pandemic.

It is also important to highlight the fact that with the onset of summer, the potential for bushfires across the continent is high. Disasters will continue to confront us against a backdrop of COVID 19. There is no shortage of information about the mental health aspects of a disaster.

There is less about how those of us tasked with the role of helping others can provide assistance in a crisis. CIMA's role has always been one of training and supporting those involved those involved in crisis intervention. 2022 will see an expanded range of information and training events utilizing the many options now available in the virtual world.

Best Wishes,

PETER KUEFFER

President

