**AGENDA ITEM 1.8**

**OBITUARY**

**DR GIOVANNI LUCCHESE FRACS**

**OTOLARYNGOLOGY HEAD AND NECK SURGEON**

**28 OCTOBER 1938 – 26 OCTOBER 2021**

It was with great sadness I heard of the death of Gino Lucchese, aged 82, two days short of his eighty- third birthday.

Giovanni, always known as Gino, was a migrant success story.

He immigrated to Australia with his parents at the age of fifteen unable to speak English. The family lived at Earlwood in Sydney and he attended Punchbowl High School. He passed the Leaving Certificate as it was then, obtaining a Commonwealth Scholarship, two years later, aged seventeen and then attended Sydney University Medical School.

After graduation and a number of residency posts in Sydney, he travelled to the United Kingdom in 1971, where he lived for four years to pursue ENT studies.

At this stage he had two young sons having married Cathy Re also a member of the Sydney Italian community. They subsequently had a third son. He went as a ship’s doctor and took three months to reach the UK. He spent two years in England and two years in Edinburgh obtaining the English and Edinburgh Fellowships in ENT. He returned to Australia and entered the ENT training program. His final post was a Registrar at Royal North Shore Hospital for twelve months. He obtained his Australian Fellowship in ENT.

After this post he joined the Staff at Royal North Hospital and the Mater Hospital as an ENT surgeon and initially joined Dr Tom O’Donnell as a partner in his practice at the North Shore Medical Centre. He eventually opened his own practice, again the Medical Centre, where he remained for the next forty years finally retiring in June 2021.

He also had a practice in Five Dock in Sydney which has a large Italian community. He was a frequent attender at local restaurants in the Leichardt area where he was well known to all the waiters where he received special treatment.

He was a general ENT surgeon with a full range of skills and was tutor and mentor to many of our current ENT surgeons, many of whom were his registrars. From 1992-2000 he was Secretary of the ENT Society of Australia, a post he carried out with distinction.

I worked with him as a colleague for many years at Royal North Shore Hospital. He was everything one would want in a colleague. He had a great sense of humour, was always already to take calls or to help surgically or post operatively and always with sagacious ENT advice. If he had one minor fault it was that he was invariably late for everything but could overcome this and disarm criticism with his customary charm and courtesy. He and his wife Cathy were pillars of the Sydney Italian community.

A great ENT character, he will be sorely missed- *vale* Gino.

*The assistance of Andrew Dowe in preparing this tribute is gratefully acknowledged.*