

Sydney Chinese Lions Contributes to the Australian Chinese Community – Sponsoring Transcription of Volumes of Medical Scripts into Simplified Chinese

Aiming at improving members' professional standards and the health of Australian Chinese community, the Australia Chinese Medical Association (ACMA) is a professional association of Chinese western medical practitioners. On 16 February 2011, the Community Health Subcommittee of ACMA held a media conference to announce the completion of transcribing Chinese health materials and publications for NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS), sponsored by the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. Under NSW Department of Health, NSW Multicultural Health Communication Service (MHCS) is responsible for the provision of health materials and publications to multicultural communities, assisting other government agencies to promote health knowledge and disease prevention. They also provide translation of the English health materials and publications issued by the government into different languages for migrants of non-English background. This is to enhance the communication capability medical practitioners have in multicultural communities, thereby enhancing health conditions among migrants of non-English background.

In the previous decades, most of the Chinese migrants were of Cantonese-speaking background. However, from the year 2000 onwards, with the rapid growth of migrants from Mainland China, Putonghua has become the preferred dialect for many in Australia. Also, there appears to be an increasing number of Chinese people who can only read simplified Chinese. Considering these changes, it is necessary for MHCS to transcribe a huge amount of health materials and publications from traditional Chinese into simplified Chinese to serve the new needs of the Chinese community. Nevertheless, this huge task was set aside due to insufficient resources and funding provided by the government. The Community Health Sub-committee of ACMA regards this as an important task for the Australian Chinese community. Initiated by Dr Stephen Li, Chairman of the Community Health Sub-committee of ACMA, coordinated by Vice Chairman Dr Danforn Lim, and sponsored by the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc, this task, which seemed to be Mission Impossible for the government, was completed within months. This achievement has been brought about not only by ACMA, but also as a result of solidarity, cooperation and dedication demonstrated by the Australian Chinese community.



The media conference of Sydney Chinese Lions handing the volume of simplified Chinese scripts over the ACMA and MHCS was hosted by Dr Danforn Lim. Guests and speakers included Dr Stephen Li, Mr Peter Todaro, Director of NSW MHCS, Project Manager Ms Fang Shen, Ms Mei Cheng JP, President of the Lions Club of Sydney Chinese Inc. and Dr Anthony Cheung, Zone 5 Chairman of District 201N5 of Lions Clubs International. Other attendees included Sydney Chinese media representatives, Lions members and volunteers who contributed to this project.