

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:45pm (AEDT)

Friday 27 November 2020

Via Zoom

Draft MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting opened at 1.45pm. WHA's CEO, Barb Vernon welcomed participants to the meeting.

1. ATTENDANCE

Anne Sneddon (President, Griffith University, QLD); Gill Evans (Mercy Hospital for Women, VIC); Jodi Graham (King Edward Memorial Hospital, WA); Patrick Turner (Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD); Lisa Lynch (The Royal Women's Hospital, VIC); Jane Jennings (Women' & Children's Health Network, SA); Michael Nicholl (Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW); Patricia Smith (Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital); Kate Reynolds (WA Country Health, WA) Tessa Kowaliw (WHA Special Purpose Director, Consumer); Susan Gannon (Dept of Health & Human Services, Tas); Naomi McKeown (WHA Special Purpose Director) Graeme Boardley (King Edward Memorial Hospital, WA);

Ex Officio: Barb Vernon (WHA)

Apologies: Boon Lim (Centenary Hospital for Women and Children)

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Resolution: That the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2019 be approved as a true & accurate record of the meeting

Moved: Anne Sneddon
2nd: Michael Nicholl
Carried.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

3.1 President's Report

A/Prof Anne Sneddon, WHA President, acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which we were meeting. She highlighted the [WHA Annual Report for 2019-2020](#) is available via the WHA website and encouraged everyone to review the document for details of WHA's activities in the past year. She then invited Barb Vernon, WHA CEO, to provide an update on success and challenges in 2019-2020.

Barb Vernon began by noting that the Board has commenced work on the development of a new strategic plan for WHA to run from 2021 to 2025 and will consult members on the draft once developed. She welcomed the 10 new health services from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria who joined the WHA community during the year, taking the WHA community to 139 maternity units nationally .

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHA played an active role in helping member health services to connect regularly to assist with planning & preparation, hosting 57 dedicated meetings on COVID in the final quarter of the year.

Re Priority 1: Partnering with Women – WHA continued to include patient stories in virtual and face to face networking meetings, showcasing innovations in NICU, telehealth & antenatal care that were co-designed to improve care & experience for women & families.

Re Priority 2: Translating evidence into practice – WHA helped services share innovations to support more evidence based care related to booking inductions of labour, managing gestational diabetes, using water for pain relief, and meeting perinatal mental health needs among many others. Members interested in reducing rates of perineal tears were also supported to understand & implement the Perineal Protection Bundle from the Collaborative.

Priority 3: Benchmarking performance & outcomes – WHA provided benchmarking reports on both clinical and operational performance to 118 maternity services as well as designing & delivering benchmarking reports on Midwifery Group Practice. A new digital platform was also developed to enable members to interact with the data between reports.

Priority 4 Best practice care through networking with peers – WHA facilitated regular meetings for 12 Special Interest Groups throughout the year, as well as publishing an additional 70 presentations to the Member's Website. The Safety & Quality Forum held in November 2019 focused on PPH, with rising rates being seen across member hospitals of all levels and sizes.

Priority 5: Advocacy – Barb briefly outlined a wide range of submissions & advocacy that took place during the year on behalf of members related to pricing for maternal & newborn care, midwifery professional education standards, clinical care standards on perineal tears, perinatal bereavement care and others.

Anne Sneddon thanked all the member hospitals who actively participated in WHA's meetings and networks through the year. She thanked her fellow Directors who volunteer their time and expertise to guide WHA's strategic focus and performance. Annie also acknowledged the fantastic and dedicated team of staff at the WHA office.

Resolution: That the President's report be accepted

Moved: Graeme Boardley
2nd: Michael Nicholl
Carried.

3.2 Financial Report

Barb Vernon summarised the Auditor's report by Kothes Accountants, highlighting WHA's secure financial position. WHA achieved a surplus for the financial year of \$48,084, taking the organisation's equity to \$568,779. Members were encouraged to look at the report in more detail. Question or comments were invited but none were raised.

Resolution: That the Auditor's Financial Report for 2019-20 be accepted

Moved: Michael Nicholl
2nd: Anne Sneddon
Carried.

4. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The call for nominations went out on 27 October 2020 and one nomination was received, from Kate Reynolds.

Resolution: That Kate Reynolds be elected to the WHA Board for a second 4-year term

Moved: Susan Gannon
2nd: Naomi McKeown
Carried.

5. CONFIRMATION OF THE AUDITOR

Resolution: That Kothes Accountants be appointed to Audit the WHA finances for 2020-21

Moved: Kate Reynolds
2nd: Graeme Boardley
Carried.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Members Questions & Answers

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask the Board and/or CEO any questions and/or to provide comment on WHA's activities and performance over the past year. No questions were received.

7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 AGM will be hopefully be held (COVID permitting) in conjunction with the WHA Safety & Quality in Maternity Care Forum, in the last week of November 2021.

Meeting closed: 2.01pm