

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**4.40pm (AEDT)**  
**Monday 20 November 2023**  
**In Person at Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park**  
**Or via Zoom**

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**MINUTES OF MEETING**

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**Meeting opened at 4:45pm (AEDT).** WHA CEO, Barb Vernon welcomed participants to the meeting and acknowledged the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation as traditional custodians of the land, paying her respects to the elders of the land and extending respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people present.

**1. ATTENDANCE**

**In Person:** Jonathan Morris (President, Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW); Emily Callander (Vice President, UTS Faculty of Health, NSW); Sarah Watts (Bendigo Health, VIC); Paula Nunn (Bendigo Health, VIC); April Jardine (Dhelkaya Health, VIC); Angie Wilson (Flinders Medical Centre, SA); Amy Rigano (Northern Adelaide LHD, SA); Kate Brown (Latrobe Regional Health, VIC); Cathryn Heywood (Launceston General Hospital, TAS); Jacqui Cameron (Joan Kirner Women's & Children's, VIC); Karen Munro Launceston General Hospital, TAS); Ann Hullett (Joan Kirner Women's & Children's, VIC); Cara Kennedy (Joan Kirner Women's & Children's, VIC); Lucy Nash (Joan Kirner Women's & Children's, VIC); Olivia Becker (Royal Hospital for Women, NSW); Narelle Brown (Royal Hospital for Women, NSW); Lorin Rees (Logan Hospital, QLD); Jane Wilson (Hervey Bay Hospital, QLD); Dohna Myler (Bundaberg Hospital, QLD); Bettina Aikenhead (Bundaberg Hospital, QLD); Kate Duggan (Frankston Hospital, SA); Anniee O'Doherty (Joondalup Health Campus, WA); Tamara Mahar (North Canberra Hospital, ACT); Daniella Keane (Centenary Hospital for Women & Children, ACT); Megan Clement (Centenary Hospital for Women & Children, ACT); Jasmin Boscheinen (Centenary Hospital for Women & Children, ACT); Hana Sayers (North Canberra Hospital, ACT); Anna Glasgow (Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD); Lisa Ward-Ritchie (Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD); Georgia Lee-Abbott (North Canberra Hospital, ACT); Carolyn Farndon (Roma Hospital, QLD); Stephanie Hudson (Charleville Hospital, QLD); Yoie Thomas (Roma Hospital, QLD); Letitia Funnell (Torres & Cape HHS, QLD); Jennine Heidke (Illawarra Shoalhaven LHD, NSW); Debra Young (Byron Hospital, NSW); Nicole Kipping (St George Hospital, QLD); Ninette Johnston (South West HHS, QLD); Jacqui van Dam (Mercy Health, VIC); Georgette Costa (Mercy Health, VIC); Tiffany Clezy (Gawler Health, SA); Sharon Harrison (Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN, SA); Vanessa Drummond (Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN, SA); Robyn Alexander (Caboolture Hospital, QLD); Leanne Roberts (Launceston General Hospital, TAS); Anne Bousfield (Roma Hospital, QLD); Rukhsana Aziz (Innisfail Hospital, QLD); Allison Weatherstone (ACM, ACT); Gemma Deng (NSW Nurses and Midwives Association); Phillipa Reppington (WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt); Jacqui Webb (Northeast Health Wangaratta, VIC); Karli Vincent (Northeast Health Wangaratta, VIC); Mel Travis (Caboolture Hospital, QLD); Michelle Schmidt (Sunshine Coast University Hospital, QLD); Deyna Hopkinson (Clinical Excellence QLD); Kaylene Matthews (Sunshine Coast University Hospital, QLD); Robin Stabler (Sunshine Coast University Hospital, QLD); Joanne Ebner (South Western Sydney LHD, NSW); Jane Healey (South Western Sydney LHD, NSW); Elizabeth Bennett (SA Health - Yorke and Northern LHN); Allison Deering (West Gippsland Healthcare Group, VIC); Kaye Clarke (Innisfail Hospital, QLD); Vanessa Lewis (Innisfail Hospital, QLD); Marnie Griffiths (Metro South Health, QLD); Michelle O'Connor (Metro South Health, QLD); Kylie Cole (University Hospital Geelong, VIC); Liz Adams (West Gippsland Healthcare, VIC); Christina Swain (Eastern Health, VIC); Georgia Himmelreich (Eastern Health, VIC); Jacqui Suarez (Eastern Health, VIC); Toni Randall (Gold Coast University Hospital, QLD); Gloria O'Connor (Redcliffe Hospital, QLD); Vanessa Bourne (Eastern Health, VIC); Hayley Van Cuylenburg (Mater Mothers' Hospital, QLD); Kristen Rickard (Noyal North Shore Hospital, NSW); Anne Rendell (North West Regional Hospital, TAS); Rebecca Lewis (Townsville HHS, QLD); Alison Sim (SA Health - Yorke and

Northern LHN); Marita de Jong (Mater Mothers' Hospital, QLD); Melinda Van Ligten (Mater Mothers' Hospital, QLD); Diana Elwood (Women's & Children's Health Network, SA); Allison Waldron (Women's & Children's Health Network, SA); Raelene Carroll (Flinders Medical Centre, SA); Kathryn Hansen (Yorke & Northern LHN, SA); Sally Brunton (Mater Mothers' Hospital, QLD); Carolyn Hilsabeck (Westmead Hospital, NSW); Sophie van Limbeek (Royal Hobart Hospital, TAS); Felicity Turnbull (Royal Hobart Hospital, TAS)

**Online:** Meredith Hobbs (Lyell McEwin Hospital, SA); Lyn Barrett (Ipswich Hospital, QLD); Kate Reynolds (WA Country Health, WA); Nicky Webster (North West Regional Hospital, TAS)

**Ex Officio: Barb Vernon (WHA)**

**Apologies:** Mike Beckmann (Mater Mothers' Hospital),

## 2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Resolution:** That the draft minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 25 November 2022 be approved as a true & accurate record of the meeting

Moved: Jonathan Morris  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Nicky Webster  
Carried.

## 3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### 3.1 President's Report

Jonathan Morris, WHA President, presented the annual report to participants. Highlighting a significant achievement in 2022-23 was the growth in the WHA community. Six new hospitals joined during 2022-23 financial year with four more joining since September 2023. WHA membership now makes up more than 83% of public births.

He then outlined key activities related to the following WHA strategic priorities:

#### **Partnering with women in design and delivery of care**

WHA continues to share webinars showcasing initiatives with co-design and consumer involvement at the centre. Four notable presentations from around the country were particularly highlighted.

Consumer involvement is also present in all levels of the National Preterm Birth Prevention Collaborative. This includes hearing from lived experiences at learning sessions, sharing resources to support shared decision-making, and learning from consumers about barriers to the implementation of cervical screening and progesterone prescribing.

#### **Enhancing value through benchmarking**

WHA has a robust benchmarking program which includes

- **Activity and costing data** to help services provide cost-effective high-value care
- **Clinical Benchmarking** reports include data from over 186,000 births allowing WHA members to measure their progress overtime and compare themselves with peers.
- **MGP benchmarking** compares MGP with standard care, and MGP models with each other separated by risk.
- **Online data portal** with a rich dataset of de-identified clinical episodes of care from more than 650,000 women and newborns to understand outcomes for women of similar characteristics.

#### **Networking to share excellence and innovation.**

WHA continues to share innovations making a difference to outcomes for women and their newborns. 2022-23 saw over 2610 maternity professionals attending 37 virtual networking

meetings. Highlights included the Leading Thinkers Series and Improving Value in Healthcare Series which include learnings from peers about ways to provide appropriate safe and effective care. WHA's online community connects over 4400 experts in maternal and newborn care, including access to more than 200 video presentations. The online community and associated networking meetings are accessible to all individuals at member hospitals.

### **Collaborative Quality Improvement**

WHA in partnership with the Australian Preterm Birth Alliance is conducting the 'Every Week Counts: National Preterm Birth Collaborative' to safely reduce preterm & early term birth in participating hospitals by 20% by March 2024.

Over 60 maternity hospitals are working together to prevent preterm birth with incredible teamwork between participating hospital sites and supporting partner organisations.

### **Advocating for a healthy and sustainable future**

WHA continues to advocate for sustainable delivery of healthcare, through promoting examples of sustainable healthcare initiatives that are eliminating waste and decarbonising services to reduce the impact of climate change on the health of women and their newborns.

### **3.2 Financial Report**

Johnathan Morris then gave an overview of the audited financial report, highlighting that the increased income and expenses were largely due to Commonwealth funding for the Collaborative.

He then closed the report by thanking the WHA board of directors, WCHA team, and WHA member hospitals.

**Resolution:** That the President's report including financial report be accepted

Moved: Angie Wilson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Diana Elwood

Carried.

### **4. CONFIRMATION OF THE AUDITOR**

The WHA board recommended to reappoint Kothes Accountants as auditors for 2023-24.

**Resolution:** That Kothes Accountants be appointed to Audit the WHA finances for 2023-24

Moved: Sarah Watts

2<sup>nd</sup>: Deyna Hopkinson

Carried.

### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

Questions and comments were invited but none were raised.

### **7. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2024 AGM will be held in conjunction with the WHA Safety & Quality in Maternity Care Forum, in the last week of November 2024.

**Meeting closed: 5:10pm**