

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

## Minutes

---

**The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia was held by videoconferencing on Thursday 24 November 2022 at 3.00 pm.**

In attendance: Shane Clifton (President), Michael Rabbitt (Board Chairman and Meeting Chair), Dianne Lucas (CEO) Shirley Carpenter (Company Secretary), Board members and SCIA members as recorded.

- 1 Michael Rabbitt declared the meeting open at 3.05 pm and gave an Acknowledgement to Country.

- 2 **Apologies**

Jimalyn Lawless, Glen Davis

- 3 **AGM minutes**

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were presented to members and a motion was put that the minutes of the 2021 AGM be accepted. Motion moved by Stewart Calderwood and seconded by Paul Crane.

The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

- 4 **President's Report**

Shane Clifton presented the President's report and covered the following points:

- Have been the President for a year now and have greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn from the Board, the leadership and employees of SCIA who have such a wide range of knowledge, skills, and experience
- COVID continues to impact the community and lockdowns and our membership is understandably cautious in returning to their pre-COVID lives which has unfortunately affected our core business and finances. We are confident however that the strategic and creative decisions we have made will improve our outlook and the budget for the forthcoming financial year looks strong and is on track
- We launched two resilience programs this year – the Engage program and The Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP). The programs help people not only adjust to their disability but to flourish, maintain wellness and improve daily life
- We continue to be challenged by the inaccessibility of the social environment including inaccessible homes, buildings, and public places. Our Advocacy and Policy, Employment, Inclusion and NDIS Services continue to fight on our behalf to change this so that the physical and social world is made more accessible.

- SCIA will continue its core mission of creating a world where people with spinal and neuro conditions and their loved ones thrive and to do this we are listening and talking to our members to see what more we can do to help them live well.

## 5 CEO report

Dianne Lucas presented the CEO report and covered the following points:

- We are still being impacted by COVID and our regional areas where we provide services particularly in the Lismore area. This has affected us quite severely financially, but we are confident of moving out of this into financial recovery in the coming year
- We have signed off on a Reconciliation Action Plan which is our formal commitment to Reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Our first Membership Strategy has been developed and initiatives from the strategy will be introduced in the coming year
- We are very grateful for the generosity and support of our major donors Anne and Phillip Currie and their friend Beverley Cumpston who have made significant contributions to SCIA over the last couple of years. These funds will be going towards services that do not benefit from grant or NDIS funding.
- Some highlights of our Services include:
  - o The expansion of our Peer and Family Support Service into the hospitals in the Wollongong, Lismore and Newcastle regions
  - o in June 2022 we began offering Support Coordination and Plan Management services in Melbourne
  - o NeuroMoves expanding the range of services on offer with hydrotherapy, initially only available at one site, available across all States now
  - o Opening a second NeuroMoves satellite site in Adelaide
  - o Launching a new Resilience and Inclusion Service
  - o A new Disability Representative Advocacy Service has begun with funding support from the NSW Government. The Service offers regular network forums and topic-based workshops to our members

## 6 Financial Statements and Report of the Auditors

The auditors provided a written statement on the financial statements and the audit process for the 2022 financial year which SCIA's Chief Financial Officer Michelle Ingman read to the meeting. The auditors confirmed that the audit process was completed satisfactorily. There were no issues noted in the audit. This enabled a clean unmodified audit opinion issued by PKF.

## 6 Election of Directors

Shirley Carpenter advised the meeting as follows:

This year we had 3 Director vacancies for the Board. For our call out for nominations we received nominations from current directors David Ham, Michelina Pelosi and Paul Crake who all renominated as Director. Under clause 41(e) of the SCIA Constitution, if the number of candidates for an election of Directors is less than or equal to the number of Elected Director positions to be filled at the election, the candidates will be taken to be duly elected. Therefore David Ham, Michelina Pelosi and Paul Crake were duly elected.

7 With no other business, Michael Rabbitt declared the Meeting closed at 3.30.