

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Minutes

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia was held by videoconferencing and in a physical space at 1 Jennifer Street on Thursday 23 November 2023 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 3.10 pm and gave an Acknowledgement to Country.

- 2 **Apologies**

Raja Relf

- 3 **AGM minutes**

The minutes of the 2022 AGM were presented to members and a motion was put that the minutes of the 2022 AGM be accepted. Motion moved by Stewart Calderwood and seconded by Paul Crake.

The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

- 4 **President's Report**

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

- Honoured to be president of SCIA. Receiving Peer Support from SCIA after my injury made a huge difference to my life.
- Exercise programs, Resilience programs, NDIS services, Advocacy, Employment Services, Inclusion training – fantastic things this organisation is doing.
- The last few years have been challenging for the organisation. Some of the services are funded by Government but not all are including Peer Support.
- COVID and the changing landscape of disability services have led to financial losses for SCIA. This has been difficult for SCIA, but we are confident we will turn this around.
- SCIA has a long and proud history, and the staff are fully committed to carrying on the work that was started decades ago. We have seen much improved changes for disability services but there is still a lot more work to be done. SCIA has a great future in front of it.

- 5 **CEO report**

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

- It has been a difficult year with operational cost increases, economic challenges but we are moving in the right direction. Working on financial sustainability is our highest priority.
- The Peer and Family Support team have expanded into the Central West, Blue Mountains, and the Hunter region.
- NeuroMoves have expanded into Goonellabah NSW, Pakenham in Victoria, and Nedlands in Western Australia.
- Our Support Coordination staff have increased as a result of high demand for services.
- We received Government funding to run a Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness project. The project is being led by the Centre for Disability Research and Policy at The University of Sydney. It is the first of its kind and is focussed on people with all disabilities.
- We have a new Inclusion service. This looks at training and supporting businesses and individuals about what it means to be more inclusive. We have run workshops with Canberra airport, and other agencies. So far 500 participants have done online accommodation training which focuses on creating accessible spaces so people can go on holiday without needing to worry.
- Our EmployAbility program which supports people with physical disability to be work ready, and employers to employ people with physical disability, continues to grow. To date we have had 80 participants in the program and 27 people placed in open jobs.
- Internally we are looking to see how we operate within our own organisation to make sure we represent what we talk about and do externally. We have developed our own Social Impact Statement which aligns to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and completed our very own Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan where we have trained all staff in cultural competence.
- We are focused on improving our technology. It has been a journey, and we are proud of what we have implemented so far. We have a new CRM which is progressing very well and are seeing significant reductions in duplication and removal of inefficiencies across the organisation which in turn has resulted in improvements of services to clients.
- Thank you to members, clients, donors, partners, and staff. We are lucky to have such amazing support and staff that are passionate and capable and committed to the organisation.
- It has been a challenging year, but we are proud of what we have done.

6 Financial Statements and Report of the Auditors

Scott Tobutt from PKF provided an update on the financial statements and the audit process for the 2022-2023 financial year. Scott 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 a vacancy for President and one Director. For the call out for nominations we received one nomination for President and 2 nominations for the position of Director. As we received one nomination only for President, Shane Clifton was re-elected as President. For the position of Director, we received two nominations which under clause 41(f) of the Constitution states that if the number of candidates for an election of Elected Directors is

greater than the number of Elected Director positions to be filled at the election, an election must be conducted. The method of election chosen by SCIA was electronic and postal and was conducted by a third party CorpVote which took responsibility for all aspects of the voting process, ensuring that all elements of the election were independent of SCIA.

Upon the closing of the election, a result was declared, and Steve Peterson was elected to the position of Elected Director.

Michael Rabbitt thanked the outgoing Director Chris Nicholls who has stood down due to serving the 3-term limit as Director. Michael thanked Chris for his outstanding contribution to the Board.

7 Special Business – Resolution 1. Modification of the SCIA Constitution.

Under clause 11 of the SCIA Constitution, SCIA must seek member approval by special resolution to modify its Constitution. Members received the Explanatory Statement and the marked-up copy of the Constitution which set out in detail the modifications sought. Briefly these were:

1. Allowing General Meetings to be held using Virtual Meeting Technology only
2. Clarifying how assets are distributed on a Winding up
3. amending clause 10 to clarify SCIA's charitable status.

The SCIA Board of Directors recommended that members vote in favour of Resolution 1 and members were then asked to consider, and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as a special resolution:

“That for the purposes of section 136(2) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and for all other purposes, SCIA (the Company) modify the constitution of the Company in accordance with the marked-up copy of the constitution tabled at the meeting”.

The resolution needed to be passed by 75% of all votes. A poll was then conducted, and the resolution was passed by 100% of all votes.

- 8 With no other business, Michael Rabbitt declared the Meeting closed at 3.32.