

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Minutes

The 2020 Annual General Meeting of the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia was held on Thursday 26 November 2020 at 3.00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the AGM was held as a videoconference.

In attendance: Christine Tink (President) and Board Members Michael Rabbitt (Board Chairman and Meeting Chair), Chris Nicholls, George Panos, Paul Crake, Stewart Calderwood, Leesa Addison, Glen Davis, David Ham, Michelina Pelosi, Dianne Lucas (CEO) Shirley Carpenter (Company Secretary) and SCIA members as recorded.

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

2 Apologies

John Moxon, Chris Karatzis, Jonathan Auega

3 AGM minutes 2019

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were presented to members and a motion was put that the minutes of the 2019 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

Christine Tink gave a summary of her report in the Annual Report and covered the following points:

- Unprecedented year starting with the bushfires and then COVID-19. These challenges helped to define the importance of our need to support each other
- Despite the challenges given to us by COVID-19 it has been a stable financial year
- SCIA had a successful fundraising event with the NSW Racehorse Owners awards night realising a profit of \$55,000. The Be a Hero campaign brought in a similar sum of money
- We launched a second CHOICES home in Perth WA which is proving very popular
- We were bequeathed a house in Bunbury WA. We were able to take ownership of the property after the sadly premature death of our generous benefactor
- A partnership has been established with Hireup – an online platform for people with disability to find, hire and manage support workers - whereby Hireup will contribute 1% of the cost of bookings to SCIA
- A house in the suburb of Belmore Sydney was gifted to SCIA by the St George Association for the Disabled. It was deemed by the Board that realising this home's value

for other projects was a more viable option for SCIA and consequently SCIA has negotiated the sale of this property

- Membership increased by 12% during the 2019/2020 Financial year. Our priority and aim always is to support and understand the needs and wants of our growing membership and to this end we have been conducting surveys throughout the year to understand what is important to our members.
- On behalf of the Board we are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

5 CEO report

Dianne Lucas gave her CEO report and covered the following points from the Annual Report:

- It has been a difficult year and we have risen to the challenges put before us
- We have developed our three year strategy to take us to 2022. The strategy provides a clear purpose for the organisation – the key themes being “creating a world where people with spinal/neuro conditions and their loved ones thrive” and “delivering a better today” to “build a better tomorrow”
- In response to COVID-19 we have enhanced our governance area and risk policies and practices which has enabled all of our services to continue to operate and in some cases expand
- We have established Clinical Governance and Research frameworks which will ensure that our clinical based services are operating with best practice governance and evidence based practices
- We launched SCIA’s Social Impact Statement. The statement has been underpinned by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and shows our commitment to building a sustainable future for all
- Delivering services to our clients – some key data:
 - o over 20,000 client interactions
 - o 9300 hours of support
 - o 320 Plan Management clients
 - o Advocacy helped 334 individuals
 - o Systemic advocacy – active on committees, enquiries, and alliances
- Our COVID-19 response:
 - o SCIA Services where possible translated to a Telehealth platform and were able to continue to operate
 - o COVID-19 safe work practices were implemented across the organisation
 - o Upgraded technology enabled SCIA staff to work remotely
- A big thank you to everyone attending the AGM

6 Financial Statements and Report of the Auditors

Jonathan Alizadeh from PKF gave an update on the financial statements and the audit process for the 2020 financial year. He stated that it was a testament to SCIA that it was able to continue to operate under the challenging conditions that COVID-19 had presented to SCIA. Jonathan confirmed that the audit process was completed satisfactorily. There were no issues noted in the audit and that the information provided paints a clear position of the organisation. 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 three nominations for three vacant director positions. The nominees were Paul Crake, David Ham and Michelina Pelosi. Under clause 41(e) of the SCIA Constitution, if the number of candidates for an election of Elected 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 Paul Crake, David Ham and Michelina Pelosi were duly elected.

7 Any Other Business

There was one question from members regarding the non-support for the over 65's under the NDIS. Dianne Lucas replied that SCIA regards this as a critical issue and that it will be a priority for SCIA Systemic Advocacy in the coming year.

- 8** Michael Rabbitt declared the Meeting closed at 3.40 pm.

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