

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

Minutes

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the members of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia was held on Thursday 25 November 2021 at 3.00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the AGM was held as a videoconference.

In attendance: Shane Clifton (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

Craig Thorbjornsen, Jenny Wilson, Jimalyn Lawless, Trish Brice

3 AGM minutes 2020

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were presented to members and a motion was put that the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted. Motion moved by Christine Tink and seconded by Paul Crake.

The members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

4 President's Report

Christine Tink provided her last report as President and covered the following points:

- A lot has been happening with COVID still with us but SCIA has risen admirably to meet the challenges
- SCIA has grown with the expansion of NeuroMoves
- Ongoing issues for our members continue - inclusion and access, personal care issues, education and employment, mental health. Christine is looking forward to contributing her knowledge and lived experience to these issues and others with her continued involvement on the Members Issues subcommittee.

5 CEO report

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

- another year with COVID has brought with it many challenges but has also seen us become closer as an organisation

- Technology upgrades – internal systems, working from home, telehealth – have enabled us to keep operating fully during COVID restrictions
- we were successful in receiving a grant to expand our physical disability Employment Service nationally
- we were successful in a tender to run the Wheelchair Accessible Taxis Centralised Booking Service in the Sydney Metropolitan area on behalf of Transport for NSW
- we introduced a podcast series – Have the Nerve
- a member advocacy consultation was conducted to develop our advocacy priorities program and from this three key advocacy priorities were identified
- developed our partnership framework and now have over 50 partner organisations working with us
- developed our Social Impact Statement covering Reconciliation, Environmental Sustainability, Diversity and Workforce Flexibility
- introduced a clinical governance research framework
- Dianne thanked the Board and SCIA staff for staying focused, supporting clients and making sure everyone was ok

6 Financial Statements and Report of the Auditors

Jonathan Alizadeh from PKF provided an update on the financial statements and the audit process for the 2021 financial year. Jonathan 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 2 vacancies for the Board – one for Director and one for President. For our call out for nominations we received 2 nominations. One for Chris Nicholls who renominated as Director and one for Shane Clifton as President. 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 Chris Nicholls and Shane Clifton were duly elected.

7 Any Other Business

Michael Rabbitt thanked Christine Tink for her 6 year tenure as President of SCIA. Very sorry to see Christine go but glad that Christine has agreed to stay involved with SCIA through her membership on the SCIA Members Issues subcommittee.

8 Michael Rabbitt declared the Meeting closed at 3.30.