
CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of ARAS Annual General Meeting

Monday 16 November 2020 at 2.00 pm

**Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute,
253 Grenfell St, Adelaide**

Meeting commenced at 2.02 pm

1. [Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country](#)

A Burgess welcomed all attendees and provided Acknowledgement of Country

2. [Apologies –](#)

Anne Edwards AO (Jane Mussared attended as COTA SA proxy)

Helena Kyriazopoulos

Sandra van Diermen, Board Member

2.1 [Present](#)

Anne Burgess, Chairperson

Michelle Bentley, Board Member

Ian Yates, Board Member

Michael Dwyer, Treasurer

Moira Jenkins, Board Member

Desmond Ford, Board Member

Wendy Lacey, Board Member (via Zoom)

Carolanne Barkla, Chief Executive

Anna Barton, Operations Manager

Lyndon Prior, Corporate Services Manager

Leonie Thomson, Minute taker

Trischia Ritchie

Annelise van Deth

Romana Ivkovic

Wendy Stewart

Brenton Pope

Doris Gioffre

Sue Lyons

Vicki Stokes

Sakina Vohra

Robyn Smith (via Zoom)

3. [Confirmation of the minutes from the November 2020 Annual General Meeting](#)

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of 25 November 2019 were accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved by M Bentley and Seconded by M Dwyer

[Resolution: That the minutes from the ARAS AGM on 25 November 2019 are accepted as a true and correct record of the meeting.](#)

4. Annual Report 2019-2020 – Chair’s report – A Burgess

Copies of the Annual Report 2019-2020 were provided to all present.

The Chair’s report was received.

The Chair, A Burgess, spoke to her report, commending the staff on how they have responded during the past year, in particular finding new ways of working, relocating the office, responding to the Royal Commission, and preparing for accreditation.

The Chair commented that the Board noted ARAS clearly demonstrates its capabilities and successes by the statistics - 3,286 advocacy and information cases, up 18%, and 402 education services to over 6,000 people, despite COVID19, and actually responding to a contact every 20 minutes. These results also demonstrate that ARAS will always fight to ensure that older people get the services they need and deserve.

All Board members were thanked for their commitment and time. Staff were also thanked for their dedication and hard work, in particular the Chief Executive who has led ARAS through the changes.

Chief Executive update

The Chief Executive, C Barkla, commented that the IT refresh completed in the previous year stood ARAS in good stead for the new way of working during 2019-2020. She made special mention of the work done by S Vohra with Advocates to film education and information sessions for older people and their families and for providers, which were a great success, as was the inaugural WEAAD online forum which was streamed throughout SA, interstate and overseas.

The office relocation was completed just prior to end of financial year, with staff rostered for packing and unpacking, which worked well. The new office will enable ARAS to make cost savings which will benefit older people.

Special mention was made of Joan Stone, former Chair of ARAS, who was recently awarded an AM for her significant contribution to championing the rights of older people. ARAS thanks Jane Mussared for her work on the recommendation for this.

Executive staff (including those recently retired) were thanked for their ongoing work and staff were thanked for their resilience, flexibility, good humour and dedication to ARAS and its work.

Organisations which fund ARAS (OPAN, SA Health, Cwlth Department of Health) were thanked for their ongoing support.

The Annual Report 2019-2020 was commended to all.

Resolution: The Annual Report 2019-2020 is accepted by the Board and ARAS member COTA(SA) represented by Jane Mussared.

5. Finance and Auditors Report – M Dwyer, Treasurer

The Treasurer’s report was received.

The Treasurer reflected on the last year, advising attendees that as not all aspects of the ARAS programs could be delivered funds were carried forward to the current financial year. Further advised that the WEAAD loss was counteracted by the Cash Flow Boost from the government which also resulted in the end of year surplus.

The Treasurer advised the Auditors have given an excellent report with no qualifications, had excellent cooperation from staff and that ARAS is considered to have good controls and reserves.

He took the opportunity to commend Bernadette Joy for her excellent work when she stepped up into the Acting Finance Manager role during the year.

The Treasurer advised ARAS has assets of over \$544K which will allow ARAS to continue with its valuable work. He also congratulated the Executive, Board and staff for their great work during the year.

Moved by I Yates, Seconded by D Ford

Resolution: The Audited Financial Statements are accepted by the Board and ARAS member COTA(SA) represented by Jane Mussared.

6. Appointment of Auditors for 2020-2021 – M Dwyer, Treasurer

The Treasurer suggested that BDO, the current auditors, be retained for this financial year, suggesting that because of all the changes it would be best to keep them on for one more year. Further advised that BDO have consent to act this year and have been advised that we may be rotating next financial year.

Moved by M Dwyer Seconded by M Bentley

Resolution: Auditors BDO be retained for the financial year 2019-2020 accepted by the Board and ARAS member COTA(SA) represented by Jane Mussared.

7. Appointment of Board members – A Burgess

The Chair advised that she, Helena Kyriazopoulos and Michael Dwyer have all finished a two year term and had renominated for another two year term.

As ARAS is still operating under the Constitution, the nomination of those members was provided to COTA(SA) for approval and that has now been received.

Resolution: A Burgess, H Kyriazopoulos, M Dwyer were reappointed to the ARAS Board, accepted by the Board and ARAS member COTA(SA) represented by Jane Mussared.

8. Amendment of Constitution – Chair – Anne Burgess

The Chair provided attendees with an overview of the reasons for updating the Constitution and the process involved. She advised the main changes were that the Constitution is now called Rules and are much more contemporary, ARAS will have a membership program, and Board members will have a three year fixed term.

COTA(SA) Board, Anne Edwards AO and Jane Mussared were thanked for their support and cooperation in approving the new Rules which made the process much easier and underscored the good relationship ARAS has with COTA(SA). The Rules are now with Consumer & Business Services (CBS) for registration and, once registered, will be fully operational.

Details of the Membership program will be finalised by the Governance & Performance Committee over the next two or three months. The Chair of the Governance & Performance Committee acknowledged the invaluable advice and support provided by the pro bono work done by MinterEllison to frame the Rules.

Jane Mussared, on behalf of the COTA(SA) Board, congratulated ARAS on the new Rules and advised they had no hesitation in supporting the changes as ARAS is regarded as a highly respected and admirable organisation which COTA(SA) works well with. She reiterated that the COTA(SA) Board is keen for the relationship to continue to enable both organisations to talk and work together to support older people.

The Chair then asked Board members, ARAS Executive and staff to describe what they are most proud of from the year. All who spoke were complimentary about ARAS, its work and the team work that helped make the year the success it was.

The Chief Executive again thanked everyone for being flexible and cooperative, for the robust discussions, team work and humour.

9. Any other business

NIL

10. Thanks and close

The Chair expressed her hope for a successful 2021 and thanked all for attending.

Meeting closed at 2.55 pm

Next meeting: 21 November 2021

Signed by Chair: _____

Date: _____