



## 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting- Minutes

Sunday - 19 September 2022

Via Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

At 7.00pm

### MINUTES

#### 1. Opening and Welcome

**Jen Blyth:**

*Happy National Week of Deaf People.*

*Acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land, the Turrbal and Jagera people. We are on Jagera and Turrbal land which is in the Brisbane area of Queensland. The land was never ceded and acknowledge the elders past and present. I would also like to welcome any Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people who are here tonight.*

*Housekeeping:*

*Bradley Reporting is captioning.*

*Any IT issues contact Shirley and Paula.*

*Jen Blyth and Debra Swann to host this evening.*

**Debra Swann:**

*I'm on Kaurna land in South Australia. Acknowledgement of the Kaura land in SA where I am, and the Aboriginal people past, present and future from this land.*

#### 2. Roll Call:

- a. Members (44)
- b. Proxy Votes (7)

Melissa Mathieson - Debra Swann  
Kyle Miers - Debra Swann  
Emmanuel Fenos - Debra Swann  
Ian Now - Lorraine D'Arcy  
Maggie McKenny - Debra Swann  
John Wade - Debra Swann  
Todd Wright - Debra Swann  
Total 51 voters.

### 3. Apologies (7)

### 4. Adoption of the Minutes of 35th Annual General Meeting

*Dr Gabrielle Hodge **moved** that the minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting be adopted as a true and accurate record after amendment to complete of the Minutes.*

*Phil Harper **Seconded.***

*The Motion is **CARRIED.***

### 5. Dot Shaw Writers Awards

***Debbie Kennewell:** Presents competition winners.*

*Thanks to Sweeney Interpreting for sponsoring the prize voucher.*

#### **Winners:**

#### **Category one (Primary to year 2) winner:**

- Erin Williams from Campbell primary school.

#### **Runner up:**

- Sophie Rosalion from Southern Cross childhood centre.

#### **Upper Primary (year 3 to year 6) winner:**

- Sienna Frewin-Lord in grade 5.

#### **Runner up:**

- Kimberley Chong from MLC.

#### **Secondary (year 7 to year 9) winner:**

- Kaitlyn Harris in grade 9.

#### **Second place:**

- Emily Wu from MLC from grade 9.

#### **Upper Secondary (year 10 to year 12) winner:**

- Rosalee Corrone from St Mary's college from year 10.

Congratulations to all.

**Jen Blyth:**

- The prizes are gift vouchers, and your school also will receive discounts from the Auslan shop.
- 51 entries received this year, breaking last year's record.

**6. Deaf Australia Awards 2022**

**Brooke Pape:** Announces the Deaf Australia Awards of 2022.

**The Deaf Australian of the Year winner:**

Elise Stewart.

**The Deaf Youth of the Year Award winner:**

Sam Martin.

**The community volunteer of the year award (thanks to the Anne Darwin family) the winner:**

Margaret van Leeuwen.

The award prizes are vouchers sent to each of the recipients.

Congratulations to all recipients.

**7. The Chair's Annual Report**

**Debra Swann presenting:**

- Over the last 12 months there has been impacts that we've experienced as a result of COVID.
- Sydney governance training.
- SGM in March.
- Our three Ts (The three terrific things).
- Continuing to work on our funding opportunities through to 2023.
- Developed partnerships with different organisations.
- SBS podcast project: 'Our Deaf Ways'
- Expert letters and submissions in relation to deaf children and NDIS.
- Advocating for Auslan interpreters on television broadcasts for emergency broadcasts or when other government officials, politicians present to the nation or states.
- Auslan shop.
- Workshops.
- Community consultations, forums, meetings, webinars.
- Directors who resigned this year: Natalie Stanhope, Ivan Callaghan and Irene Holub.
- Debbie Kennewell and Adrian Doyle will step down.
- Lorraine Mulley and Brooke Pape will be nominating for further three year turns after they both were co-opted for the last 12 months.

*Sherrie Beaver moved that the 36th Annual Report be accepted.*

*Paul Allen **Seconded.***

*The Motion is **CARRIED.***

**8. Adoption of the 35th Annual Financial Report**

**Debra Swann:** presented the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Report.

- Grants received are \$1,231,928.

- Membership fees were \$9,010.
  - Auslan shop earned \$64,815.
  - Sponsorships \$7,944.
  - Consultation fees, \$68,127.
  - Other funds totalling \$39,340.
  - **Total: \$1,417,710** (compared to last year's \$615,633).
- 86.9 per cent of our funding is from grants.

**2021-22 financial year expenditure:**

- Auslan shop purchases, postage \$3,141.
- Operational costs \$269,948.
- Salaries and other costs \$1,009,854.
- Rent of our office space was \$26,262.
- Travel costs \$72,958.
- Computers software and other technology costs \$48,229.
- **Total expenditure: ~~000~~\$1,412,392**

**6. Appointment of Auditor**

**Jen Blyth:**

Ryk Eksteen who was our auditor for the previous financial year to be our auditor for next financial year.

*Debbie Kennewell **moved.***

*Dr Gabrielle Hodge **seconded.***

*Majority **moved** to accept Deaf Australia's recommendation to appoint Ryk Eksteen of Collins and co be appointed as Auditor for the Year 2022/23.*

*The Motion is **CARRIED.***

**7. Deaf Youth Australia - Video of Annabelle DYA President (not present-overseas)**

- Two significant updates, we only have one board director, not a good situation.
- We will review our terms of reference and our constitution, as per discussion with Deaf Australia.
- Consultations with two different age groups asking what they would like to see from DYA, if they could provide support and what we can do to support.
- We'll have a further consultation, review and then make the final changes formally.
- We had four deaf youth people, Otis, Reilly, Zen, Taige, going to a camp with two leaders, Sam and Chloe.
- Big thanks to Deaf Australia for support.

**8. Election of Officers - Menti (online poll) voting**

- Adrian Doyle – has stepped down.

- Debbie Kennewell – has stepped down.
- **Nominations:**
  - Lorraine Mulley. Lorraine has been co-opted on the board for the last 12 months.
  - Brooke Pape. Brooke also was co-opted on to the board over the last 12 months.
  - Margaret Imri.
  - Sherrie Beaver.
  - Karthik Vijayanandam.
  - Svetlana Angus.
  - Julie Lyons
  - Susan Bates

Nominations (8)

- Top 6 votes:
  1. Sherrie Beaver
  2. Brooke Pape
  3. Lorraine Mulley
  4. Julie Lyons
  5. Karthik Vijayanandam
  6. Susan Bates
- Deaf Australia Constitution supports voting face-to-face but if more nominations are received than available seats of directors then a postal vote or ballot should take place.
- No voting in person this year - voting is online.
- Need at least 10 members here tonight who agree that they are happy to move for a special circumstances vote.
  - Our Constitution states we can vote to agree in special circumstances.
  - Special circumstance to vote for Board members.
  - Live votes (7)
  - Proxy votes (7)
  - Total votes (14)
  - Motion **CARRIED.**

**9. General Business:**

**a. Roadmap 2020-2025 update**

**Adrian Doyle:**

- Auslan recognition of Indigenous language.

- Triple t's, three terrific things have been sent out.
- Sent through to the NDIS to request that Auslan is a recognised language.
- SBS - Our Deaf Ways
- Collaboration with other organisations, AFDO, NDIS etc.
- Involved in the federal government advocating for Auslan access throughout the process including parliament.
- Increasing the capacity of Deaf Australia.
- Governance training in Sydney.

**b. Constitution update and the membership update.**

**Debra Swann:**

- We want more consultation with our community.
- We'll also talk more with a lawyer to review our Constitution and how we should update it.
- Our Constitution is outdated. we want to work towards drafting a new Constitution.

**10. Questions/comments**

- Not enough time for the members to read through all of the information.
- Reports need to be sent out as per constitutional rules which is normally two weeks prior to an AGM.
- Deaf Australia in breach of constitution.
- Auslan was entirely capitalised
- Potentially having a separate section for DBV, DeafHub funding in financial reporting.
- Transparency to members regarding the auspice of other organisations

**Clarifications:**

- Deaf Australia Constitution says five directors and two co-opted directors in board.
- Five directors have the full three-year terms, two directors are casual directors they have one-year terms.
- The bottom two from tonight's poll will be our casual directors, co-opted for one-year terms.
- They can be nominated again at the next AGM to stand for three-year terms.
- **Deaf Australia Constitution:**
  - *Information regarding a transparent AGM requires written notice two weeks prior to the AGM.*
  - *The minutes of the proceedings of the AGM will receive the board report the activities of Deaf Australia through that last year period.*
  - *Reports from each state or territory branch and working party of the board to elect office bearers and receive a statement under section 26 (6) - if more nominations are received than there are vacancies for office bearers or directors, then we will have a vote by a returning officer will be appointed by the board to manage the*

*voting, voting papers and information, the names of the candidates in order.*

- *Papers should include information such as recording votes of each candidate.*
- *The ballots shall close 6 pm two days before the AGM.*

**Outcomes:**

- Defer the adoption of the financial report to future date, to give people time to read the financial report and also present more information about auspice arrangements of the two organisations and their finances.

**Actions:**

- Deaf Australia reviewing the Constitution and consulting legal advice in updating that to a more current and relevant Constitution.
- Members to be informed after further instruction.

**10. Vote of thanks**

**11. Close**