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**MINUTES OF 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
*HELD AT STAMFORD GRAND NORTH RYDE*  
*FRIDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2006*

The meeting opened at 7.35 PM, with Mrs Margaret Robertson, Chairperson of the Board of Directors, in the Chair.

**1. Access Provisions**

In accordance with clause 11.1 (a) (ii) of the Constitution, the Chairperson confirmed that reasonable assistance (by way of assisted hearing devices, CART and interpreters) was being provided to the satisfaction of members in attendance.

**2. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed all members and observers. The Chairperson introduced members of the Board to attendees and invited all present to stay for finger food and drinks following the AGM. The Chairperson then introduced the new CEO of Deafness Forum, Nicole Lawder.

The CEO read the following apologies from members and non-members:

Name	Class	Status
Lynnette Polson	Consumer Association	Meniere's Support Group Victoria
Louise Rakowski	Consumer	Individual Member
Wendy Maher	Service Provider Association	Deafness Foundation of Victoria
Carmel Batson	Service Provider	Individual Member
Kathy Challinor	Consumer	Individual Member
Rita Corbett	SP	Individual Member
Lyn Beaumont	Consumer	Individual Member
Nari Jennings	Service Provider Association	The Captioning Studio
John Byrne	Consumer	Individual Member
Peter Halsey	Consumer Association	ACT Deafness Resource Centre
Kris Chapman	Service Provider Association	Victorian Deaf Society
Richard Brading	Consumer	Individual Member and representative of Association member SHHH
Roma Wood	Consumer	Individual Member
John Richards	Service Provider Association	WA Institute for Deaf Education, and of Organisation Member Australian Association of Teachers of the Deaf
Maureen McGrotty	Consumer and Consumer Association	Individual member and representative of Association member Hearing Solutions
Barry Mackinnon	Consumer	Individual member, Deafness Council of WA
Peter Lindley	Consumer	Individual member
Gwen Rosengren	Service Provider	Individual member
Gwen Rosengren	Consumer Association	Association member Better Hearing Australia (Vic)
Valma Stebbings	Consumer	Individual member
Janette Hunter	Consumer	Individual member
Joan Hansen	Consumer	Individual member
Duncan Gray	Consumer	Individual member
Stan Batson	Consumer	Life Member

Name	Class	Status
William Birks	Consumer	Individual member
William Bee	Consumer	Individual member
Sue Daw	Consumer	Individual member
Sue Daw	Consumer Association	Better Hearing Australia (National)
Dierdre Robertson	Service Provider	Individual member
Andrew Stewart	Consumer	Life Member and representative of Association member Printacall
Ross McKeon	Consumer Association	Australian Tinnitus Association (Vic)
Elizabeth Ellis	Consumer	Individual Member

### 3. Attendance and proxies

The Chairperson noted that attendees had signed in at the door and would be recorded in these minutes. They (and their eligible proxies) were:

	Name	Class	Representing	Status
1	Chairperson	Consumer	Peter Lindley	Proxy Holder
2	Chairperson	Consumer	Janette Hunter	Proxy Holder
3	Chairperson	Consumer	Joan Hansen	Proxy Holder
4	Chairperson	Consumer	Duncan Gray	Proxy Holder
5	Chairperson	Consumer	William Birks	Proxy Holder
6	Chairperson	Consumer	Dierdre Robertson	Proxy Holder
7	Chairperson	Consumer	Maureen McGrotty	Proxy Holder
8	Chairperson	Consumer	Elizabeth Ellis	Proxy Holder
9	Chairperson	Consumer	William Bee	Proxy Holder
10	Margaret Robertson	Consumer	Self	Individual member
11	Laurie Kellam	Consumer	Self	Individual member
12	Sarah Livingstone	Consumer	Self	Individual member
13	Sarah Livingstone	Consumer	Barry Mackinnon	Proxy holder
14	Stephen Miller	Consumer	Self	Individual member
15	Stephen Miller	Consumer	Stan Batson	Proxy holder
16	Alex Jones	Consumer	Self	Individual member
17	Margaret Robertson	Consumer	Sue Daw	Proxy Holder
18	Elizabeth Evans	Consumer	Self	Individual Member
19	Barry Roberts	Consumer	Self	Individual Member
20	Jo Quayle	Consumer	Self	Individual member
21	Bill Hick	Consumer	Self	Individual member
22	Ruth Fotheringham	Consumer	Richard Brading	Proxy holder
23	Peter Kerley	Consumer	Self	Individual Member
24	Ruth Fotheringham	Consumer	Self	Individual member
25	Bill Hick	Consumer Association	Australian Tinnitus Association (NSW)	Proxy holder
26	Ruth Fotheringham	Consumer Association	SHHH	Proxy holder
27	Margaret Robertson	Consumer Association	BHA Victoria	Proxy Holder
28	Margaret Robertson	Consumer Association	BHA National	Proxy Holder
29	Margaret Colebrook	Consumer Association	Let Us Hear	Association Member
30	Chairperson	Consumer Association	ACT Deafness Resource Centre	Association Member
31	Margaret Robertson	Service Provider	Gwen Rosengren	Proxy Holder
32	Jenny Rosen	Service Provider	Self	Individual Member
33	Jill Duncan	Service Provider	Self	Individual Member
34	Mary Lawson	Service Provider	Self	Individual member
35	Noeleen Bieske	Service Provider	Self	Individual member
36	Sharan Westcott	Service Provider Association	Sydney Cochlear Implant Centre	Proxy holder
37	Sharan Westcott	Service Provider	Audiology Australia	Proxy holder

	Name	Class	Representing	Status
		Association		
38	Chairperson	Service Provider Association	Hearing Solutions,	Proxy Holder
39	Chairperson	Service provider Association	Kris Chapman (Vicdeaf)	Proxy Holder
	Kirsten Preece	None	Non-voting	Staff member
	Katie Holzhauser	None	Non-voting	Staff member
	Nicole Lawder	None	Non-voting	Staff member
	Helen Case	None	Non-voting	Steno-captioner
	Rebecca Ladd	None	Non-voting	Interpreter
	Della Bampton	None	Non-voting	Interpreter
	Michelle Maguire	None	Non-voting	Interpreter

#### 4. Admission of Proxy Votes

Proxy voting cards had been issued to members carrying proxies on their way into the meeting. Proxies received prior to the meeting, including those appointing the Chair of the Meeting, were in the possession of the proxy holders. The meeting was advised that proxies would be counted in respect of each Business Motion where a poll was taken, rather than a resolution being decided by a show of hands.

#### 5. Confirmation of Quorum

The meeting was advised that a quorum for each of the four Classes, as required by clauses 11.1 (a) (i) and 11.1 (b) of the Constitution, was present in person or by proxy.

#### 6. Identification of Scrutineers

Staff members, Kirsten Preece and Katie Holzhauser, were identified as the appointed scrutineers for the meeting.

#### 7. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting. It was moved that the minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and correct record. (Bill Hick/Ruth Fotheringham).

The motion was declared carried by the necessary majority on show of votes for all four Classes.

Motion carried: voting (including proxies) as follows:

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100
Consumer Association	5	0	1	83
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

#### 8. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters identified as arising from the Minutes.

#### 9. Annual Report for 2005/06

Annual reports were available to all attendees. The Chairperson stated that the annual report showed Deafness Forum had worked hard over the past 12 months to improve the quality of life for Deaf and hearing impaired people in the community. Full details could be read in the Annual report, but of special note was the Fourth Deafness Sector Summit held in May in Perth. The Deafness Forum undertakes lobbying and systemic advocacy and constant vigilance is required in this work.

**It was moved that the annual report for 2005/06 be accepted.** (Ruth Fotheringham/Laurie Kellam)

The motion was declared carried by the necessary majority on show of votes for all four Classes.

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100
Consumer Association	6	0	0	100
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

## 10. Audited Financial Statements

The audited financial statements for the 2005-06 year were tabled. The CEO advised that both revenue and expenditure were up for the year – this was largely related to the Fourth National Deafness Sector Summit, which is held every second year.

**It was moved that the audited financial statements for 2005/06 be accepted.** (Mary Lawson/Jo Quayle)

The motion was declared carried by the necessary majority on show of votes for all four Classes.

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100
Consumer Association	6	0	0	100
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

## 11. Amendments to the Constitution.

Copies of proposed changes to the Constitution were tabled through a copy of the current Constitution, with tracked changes showing proposed changes. The Chairperson asked the CEO to outline the reasons for the proposed changes resolutions in the Constitution. The CEO did so: the three proposed changes to the Constitution are where there are outdated clauses, for example, references to outdated technology such as telexes. The advice from the Forum's solicitor was to change the wording to bring the clause up to date.

### Special Business Motion 2006/1

**It was moved that Clause 16.2 of the Constitution be changed as per the attached to the agenda papers.** (Noeleen Bieske/Ruth Fotheringham)

It was noted that one member (consumer association) expressed concern about staff proceeding on the basis of a vote received without signatures.

Motion carried: voting (including proxies) as follows:

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100
Consumer Association	6	0	0	100
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

### Special Business Motion 2006/2

**It was moved that Clause 23.1 of the Constitution be changed as per the attached to the agenda papers.** (Bill Hick/Laurie Kellam)

Motion carried: voting (including proxies) as follows:

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100
Consumer Association	5	0	1	83
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

### Special Business Motion 2006/3

**It was moved that Clause 25 of the Constitution be changed as per the attached to the agenda papers.** (Mary Lawson/Barry Roberts)

Motion carried: voting (including proxies) as follows:

Section	For	Against	Abstain	%age for Motion
Consumer	24	0	0	100

Consumer Association	6	0	0	100
Service Provider	5	0	0	100
Service Provider Association	4	0	0	100

**12. Discussion of Focus for Hearing Awareness Week 2007**

There were no suggestions received for a focus for HAW 2007. The Board will discuss at its next meeting.

**13. Ballot for new Board member**

This item is not longer needed. Refer to Item 15.

**14. Any Other Business**

Liz Evans read a brief statement from Lyn Beaumont, who had been unable to attend last night's Captioning Award and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the Roma Wood Community Award he received.

The Captioning Awards were commended by Alex Jones as an initiative that gave the TV industry recognition and created an atmosphere of excitement and willingness to do more.

**15. Declaration of Results of Ballot for Vacancies on Board of Directors**

The CEO declared the results of the process to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors:

Consumer - Hearing Impaired – there was one vacancy available and two nominations received. A postal ballot was conducted and the result was a tie. Therefore another vote was scheduled for tonight's AGM. However in the past 24 hours one candidate has withdrawn for personal reasons. This leaves the remaining candidate, Liz Evans (nominated by BHA Sunshine Coast) declared elected for a two-year term ending at the 2008 AGM.

Service Providers – there was one vacancy available and four nominations received. A postal ballot resulted in Sharan Westcott (nominated by Audiology Australia) declared elected for a two year term ending at the 2008 AGM.

Consumer - Ear Disorders – there were two vacancies available and two nominations received. Therefore Ross McKeown (nominated by Australian Tinnitus Association (Vic)) and Bill Hick (nominated by Australian Tinnitus Association (NSW)) were declared elected unopposed, both for a two year term ending at the 2008 AGM.

Consumer – Deaf – there were two vacancies available and two nominations received. Therefore Stephen Miller (nominated by John Pierce Centre) and Alex Jones (nominated by Ephpheta Centre) were declared elected unopposed, both for a two year term ending at the 2008 AGM.

The CEO advised that the incoming Board would meet the next day

**16. Expressions of thanks and appreciation**

The Chairperson referred to retiring Board members, Mary Lawson, Ruth Fotheringham and Barry Roberts and thanked them all for their efforts. She also thanked all in attendance for coming to the AGM and participating so positively and in such a quick meeting. She also thanked the staff, Nicole Lawder, Kirsten Preece and Katie Holzhauser, and all Deafness Forum volunteers, such as Andrew Stewart and Peter Lindley, for their work.

**17. Closure of meeting -** The Chairperson closed the business meeting at 8.25 PM.