

MINUTES

Annual General Meeting 2022

30 November 2022

National webcast

1. WELCOME

The Chief Executive Officer advised the members that the Chair of Deafness Forum Australia was unable to attend the meeting. The Constitution allowed for members to elect a chair for this AGM: Edwin Tucker, the board's Treasurer was appointed chair.

The meeting was opened by the Chair at 3.05pm AEDT.

Communication access was confirmed.

Attendees were identified.

Proxies were admitted.

Quorums were confirmed in the four membership categories.

The Chair conducted an Acknowledgement of Country.

The chair congratulated three new Honorary Life Members whose awards were announced at a special presentation during the Hearing Australia 75th Anniversary conference on 28 November 2022. They were Margaret Dewberry, Ann Porter and Barry MacKinnon.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

RESOLUTION 1

The Annual General Meeting accepts the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting as a true record.

Moved: Raelene Walker

Seconded: Susan Walters

All in favour in each membership voting class. Carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no matters arising.

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4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

David Brady was not present to be able to give his chair's report: it was, however published in full on the Deafness Forum website. In his absence, director Rhonda Locke provided a summary of that report:

David's report noted that in the past decade Deafness Forum had worked with 6 Prime Ministers, 8 Health Ministers, 8 Social Service Ministers, and 5 NDIS Ministers.

As David wrote, through our collective voices we championed the message that hearing loss is the largest disability per head of population in adulthood. It affects 1 in 6 Australians today and 1 in 4 by 2050. The annual financial cost to Australia exceeds \$30B and will continue to rise without the interventions of governments at all levels.

During the year Deafness Forum had representatives in 14 committees and reference groups, including the:

- Australian Federation of Disability Organisations,
- Australasian Early Newborn Screening Committee
- Australian Hearing Health Alliance
- World Hearing Forum hosted by the World Health Organisation
- International Federation of Hard of Hearing People.

We contributed to 124 inquiries, position papers, policy reviews, workshops, and research papers.

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5. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Treasurer Dwin Tucker provided a summary and responded to questions about the year's financial activities and outcomes.

RESOLUTION 2

The Annual General Meeting accepts the chair's 2021-22 annual report to members, and the auditor's report and the annual financial statements presented.

Moved: Raelene Walker

Seconded: Susan Walters

All in favour in each membership voting class. Carried.

RESOLUTION 3

The Annual General Meeting appoints Les Ellis and Associates as the company's auditor for the next financial year.

Moved: Rhonda Locke

Seconded: Barry MacKinnon

All in favour in each membership voting class. Carried.

6. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The meeting acknowledged contributions made by Jeffrey Johnson, who would step down from the Board after two terms as a Parent Representative nominee.

It noted that David Brady would continue in his current term to conclude at the next AGM.

The board would elect office-bearers at its next meeting.

In September and October 2022, nominations were called for candidates to fill directors' positions that would fall vacant immediately after this Annual General Meeting.

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RESOLUTION 4

The Annual General Meeting confirms the following appointments to the Deafness Forum board, effective at the close of this AGM:

- **Catherine Morgan, nominated by National Acoustic Laboratories**
- **Michelle Courts, nominated by The Shepard Centre**
- **Rhonda Locke, nominated by Better Hearing Australia Brisbane**
- **Raelene Walker, nominated by West Australian Foundation for Deaf Children**
- **Dwin Tucker, nominated by ClearaSound**
- **Barry MacKinnon, nominated by Deafness Council Western Australia**

Moved: Emily Shepard

Seconded: Susan Walters

All in favour in each membership voting class. Carried.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

8. MEETING CLOSED

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 3:44pm AEDT.

Approved as a true and accurate record of the Deafness Forum of Australia 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Chairperson, date