

VMIAC AGM 2021 Minutes -- draft



Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council
Thursday 25 November 2021 4:00 – 6:30 pm

Via Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87546327367?pwd=KzY5QWFXeUQ5SkIGd0gzVXVIRIR0UT09>

Meeting ID: 875 4632 7367

Passcode: VMIAC

Apology received: Bernadette Brown

1. Introduction

Chair James Horton

James Horton welcomed all and noted some topics illicit strong views, and requested all to please be respectful of each other's rights and sensibilities.

CEO Craig Wallace welcomed all – new and old members.

2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Uncle Colin

3. Review of actions from previous Annual General Meeting

Chair James Horton

One major action from the previous AGM will be addressed in Item 10, Resolution 1, further in the meeting.

4. Acceptance of minutes of previous Annual General Meeting

Chair James Horton

That the minutes of the VMIAC Annual General Meeting of **Wednesday 18 November 2020** held **online**, be accepted and ratified as an accurate and true reflection of what transpired in that meeting. Please display a show of hands via zoom or put hands up.

Moved: Ali Pain **Seconded:** Simon Katterl
Motion: Carried with all members in attendance in favour.

5. Chairperson's Report

Kathy Wilson

Kathy Wilson thanked all for attending and noted it is fantastic to see everyone here. Kathy noted that this year the Chair's report is written by both Chris Maylea and herself, and that the CEO report has also been co-authored by two people also.

Kathy acknowledged it has been a big year of change with a lot of effort. Alongside all of the change VMIAC keeps rising to the occasion and moving forward. Kathy wanted to recognise this fact and how much work has been involved. Kathy shared her thanks for the following in particular:

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- Former CEO Maggie Toko who has now moved on to the Commission, for her long term contribution to VMIAC.
- Tricia Szirom for how she helped us rise to the enormous occasion presented by the Royal Commission and the 70 odd recommendations that arose from that.
- Narelle Fousketakis for her valuable role often in the background, holding VMIAC through all of the changes.

Kathy noted VMIAC did have a successful budget which will be covered in the Treasurer's Report. VMIAC succeeded in moving somewhat out of poverty which is very important given the scope of the work we have to do. We now have a number of new staff being able to do new things due to these new resources we have been able to achieve – we have successfully grown a lived experience workforce.

Kathy recognised we have made some very early first steps in the research space, with the Consumer Research Position we funded in partnership with Melbourne University, and acknowledged that our advocacy agenda is a big one with enormous work done in this space, particularly advocacy around human rights and empowerment of consumers.

Kathy noted that we continue to build VMIAC as an organisation which is a process that can take some time, and that VMIAC is built on the work of so many people with so much courage. Kathy acknowledged those people that have fostered VMIAC and kept the organisation on this path.

Lastly Kathy noted that the CoM put in many many hours of voluntary work and recognised all of these people, in particular the people who lead the subcommittees. Thank you to all.

Finally Kathy noted that she will be retiring as Chair, and that the role has been a privilege.

6. CEO Report

Tricia Szirom

Tricia Szirom made an acknowledgement to country. She offered her thanks to Maggie Toko for her work on the report and noted that she is sharing this report on behalf of both of them.

Tricia noted that she has been privileged to work again with the wonderful VMIAC staff team, and that all staff have contributed enormously.

Tricia highlighted the resilience of staff coping with the changes and challenges that Covid presented. The Royal Commission was a challenge, and in some ways saw a positive outcome. One concern was that the implementation of the commission's vision is achieved. Tricia felt really supported by the Membership with many involved in the briefing sessions.

Tricia noted that through the work of the Committee, we have been able to ensure the funding we have for the next four years is substantial enough to allow for the staff team and consulting capacity needs.

Tricia noted the following highlights, thanks to Maggie for these:

- Video series available on the website.
- The 'Just Saying' program – amazing for people still in the system and potentially being damaged by the system.
- New self-advocacy program, 'Check-In'.
- 'Member Connect – a membership program which have us a better picture of who you are as members.
- Building the Committee's expertise.

Finally, Tricia thanked the Committee Members, in particular Kathy Wilson and Chris Maylea for their support through her time as CEO, and Narelle Fousketakis for all of her work; and congratulations to the new Chair James Horton who is already doing a great job.

7. Treasurer's Report

Ali Pain

2020/21 has been a productive year for VMIAC, resulting in a strong operating position despite the current challenges. VMIAC has continued its navigation of COVID19 by using online platforms for consumer consultations, advocacy and enabling staff to effectively work from home.

VMIAC's financial operations have resulted in an audited surplus of \$131,408 reflected in the Statement of Profit and Loss report for the year ended 30 June 2021, with the following notable items –

- VMIAC received a \$50,000 Covid-19 Stimulus Cash Boost to assist with our adapting to the changing customer and staff and organisational environment
- Salaries and related costs were on budget this year, due to active and focussed recruitment during the year where all positions were filled as at 30/6/2021.

VMIAC's Balance Sheet indicates –

- A continued healthy cash position with an audited figure of \$915,690 of income carried forward into 2021/22
- The Equity section of the Balance Sheets indicates VMIAC's operations have generated \$893,325 of value in the organisation. A strong position.

Financial areas of focus for the coming year will include –

1. VMIAC's Risk Management profile and minimising all aspects of organisational risk.
2. Continuing regular Program & Project reviews to analyse progress and ensure maximum impact and full utilisation of our budgets.
3. Reviewing Budgets to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to ensure effective operation into a "Covid Normal" future.
4. Continuing to deliver on the Strategy and delivering projects which achieve VMIAC's vision.
5. Continuing to maximise return on funds.

Move that the financial statements for year 21 and are satisfied that has met

Motion: That the financial statements for 2020/2021 be approved, and that the membership of VMIAC is satisfied that the organisation is viable, has made its PAYG and Superannuation contribution obligations and can meet its commitments when they fall due.

Moved: Ali Pain **Seconded:** Tricia Szirom

Motion: Carried with all members in attendance in favour by show of hands.

The appointment of Sean Denham & Associates as Auditor for next 12 months.

8. Acceptance of the Annual Report

James Horton

Motion: That the Annual Report is accepted by the membership.

Moved: Ali Pain **Seconded:** Simon Katterl

Show of hands to vote – accepted. This includes accepting the Financial Report which was moved and seconded separately.

Tricia Szirom noted that voting is only for members. James Horton noted that we did receive some late registrations which will not be eligible to vote tonight.

9. Election – Procedural Resolutions

James Horton

9.1 Number of ordinary members

52 Election of ordinary members

(1) The annual general meeting must by resolution decide the number of ordinary members of the Committee (if any) it wishes to hold office for the next year.

For 2022, it is proposed that there be eight ordinary members and four office-bearers. – Vote via a show of hands.

Motion: That there be eight ordinary members and four office-bearers.

Moved: James Horton **Seconded:** Ali Pain

Motion carried by a show of hands to vote – accepted.

James noted there are three things we are proposing to vote on concerning the VMIAC Constitution. None of these will make significant changes to how VMIAC will run; more so they administratively tidy up the Constitution.

9.2 Appointment of office bearers

Roles of the Chairperson and Treasurer were uncontested.

Chair: James Horton

Treasurer: Ali Pain

9.3 Election of ordinary members

We have five vacancies to fill, and we have 7 nominees. James noted that all nominees have been impressive.

Vrinda Edan sought clarification on the Constitution's position regarding how many members of the Committee of Management are to be voted in each year, stating that if we have five new members this year to fill the five vacancies, this will result in a change to the maintenance of rotation and knowledge of the CoM.

Kathy Wilson proposed that we fill four of the five positions today via the vote, and ask that all vote for a fifth position which the CoM can then agree to appoint for a period of 12 months only. This will bring us back in alignment with four vacancies arising next time.

James Horton agreed this is a great suggestion and we will proceed as such.

The nominees as listed below, introduced themselves with a few words about their experience.

1. David Cohan
2. Matthew Jackman
3. Simon Katterl
4. Nicole Lee
5. Lyn Macleod
6. Emily Unity
7. Ian Watts

A poll was launched through Zoom for all eligible attendees to select their top five nominees.

Tom Wood, Secretary, noted that proxies were collected today, collated and provided to Danilo Di Giacomo who will combine them with the vote count result from this meeting.

Noted that the process for those for whom voting not working via the Zoom pool, to please private message the VMIAC account in the Zoom chat, listing their five nominees.

Discussion held around how members can check their membership status. Robin Litvins-Salter will share information on this to the website and social media next week.

Voting results for the election of Ordinary Members:

Nicole Lee - 60

Simon Katterl - 57

Emily Unity - 53

Ian Watts - 49

Lyn Mcleod – 39, Lyn will be appointed for a period of 12 months only, being the fifth position.

10. Constitutional Changes

Chair

The following special resolutions require a majority of 75% or more to be carried.

Resolution 1 – Where pronouns are used in the Rules, to change to she /they /he

Add references at sections 11(2), 34(1), 34(3), 47(3), 52(4), 54(3) and 70(3) to include they. This Resolution is an action item from the previous AGM where the motion was not carried.

Strong support for more inclusive pronouns, discussion around whether just 'they' would be more appropriate. Consider this as an interim measure, with ongoing dialogue to take place. It was noted that it might be necessary to hold a special general meeting to make any further changes to the constitution.

Moved: Tom Wood Seconded: Zara van Twest Smith
Motion Carried: Poll conducted in Zoom, with 98% FOR and 2% AGAINST.

Resolution 2 - To change the purposes of the Association

Part 1, Rule 2 to be changed from:

The purposes of the association are—

The Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council Incorporated (VMIAC) is the peak Victorian non-government organisation for mental health consumers. Consumers are defined as people who have experienced mental illness and/or emotional distress.

To:

The purposes of the association are—

The Victorian Mental Illness Awareness Council Incorporated (VMIAC) is a Victorian non-government organisation for marginalised mental health consumers who have alternative views not otherwise represented and who want to work together to try to abolish all compulsory treatment in Victoria.

Zoe Mithen proposed this resolution and spoke to this. Considerable further discussion both for and against this motion.

Moved: Zoe Mithen Seconded: Rachel and Kristin Gillespie
Motion not carried: Poll conducted in Zoom, with 6% FOR and 94% AGAINST.

Resolution 3 - To change the Committee of Management composition

Part 5, Division 2, Rule 43 to be changed from:

The Committee consists of—

- a) a Chair; and
- b) a Deputy Chair; and
- c) a Secretary; and
- d) a Treasurer; and
- e) ordinary members (if any) elected under rule 53.

To:

The Committee consists of—

- a) a Chair; and
- b) a Deputy Chair; and
- c) a Secretary; and
- d) a Treasurer; and
- e) ordinary members (if any) elected under rule 53, including two current Victorian public mental health system service users.

This Resolution was put forward by Zoe Mithen. Discussion ensued around the composition of the Committee, and also the perceived lack of time during the AGM to fully discuss the agenda items. Consider potential for an extraordinary AGM early in the new year for further discussion.

Moved: Zoe Mithen Seconded: Kristin Gillespie
Motion not carried: Poll conducted in Zoom, with 15% FOR and 85% AGAINST.

As a result of the topics and resultant discussions that ensued throughout Item 10 in particular, an AGM debrief Zoom was scheduled to take place immediately following the AGM, open to all. Zoom details were shared in the Zoom chat.

11. Announcement of Election Results

As noted in Items 9 and 10.

12. Thank you to outgoing Committee of Management

Chair

James Horton welcomed the new Committee members, thanking all who have been involved in the CoM for their contribution. James acknowledged the courage displayed by Zoe Mithen in raising her items, and also acknowledged the honesty and heartfelt responses that made. We need to find better ways to address issues – a matter for the new CoM.

Kathy Wilson acknowledged James' work in holding a conflict space with grace, inclusivity and acknowledging what we need to do better.

13. Close of meeting 6.30pm

Chair