

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (ACT)
LIMITED (ACN 008 615 778) HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2016
AT THE HOTEL REALM NATIONAL CIRCUIT BARTON, ACT COMMENCING AT 8.00 PM**

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Dr Elizabeth Gallagher, AMA (ACT) President welcomed members and guests to the 2016 Annual General Meeting.

2. GUEST SPEAKER:

Dr David Blythe, representing Ms Nicole Feely, Director-General of ACT Health, addressed the meeting, outlining his role and committing to ensure that the views of ACT medical practitioners were communicated to the Director-General.

3. PRESENT:

President and chair: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher.

Directors: Prof Steve Robson, Drs Andrew Miller, Iain Dunlop and Suzanne Davey.

Members: Drs John Ainge, Colin Andrews, Jo-Anne Benson, Tony Crawford, Antonio Di Dio, John Donovan, Georgina Flanagan, Karen Flegg, Ian Gardner, Michael Gillespie, Andrew Gordon, Tony Griffin, Charles Howse, Peter Hughes, Katherine Lubbe, Ian Pryor, Robert Reid, Kylie Scott, Alex Stevenson, Andrew Thomson and Ian Trethewey.

A quorum being present, the meeting proceeded.

In attendance: Peter Somerville, Tanya Smith, Helen Longdon and Karen Fraser.

4. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from:

Directors: A/Prof Jeff Looi and Dr Rashmi Sharma OAM.

Members: Drs Alan Shroot, Andrew Foote, Brian Richards, Caroline Luke, Catherine Drummond, Denise Krause, Roma Bedford, Diana Kirk, Felicity Donaghy, Fiona McDonald, Graeme Moller, John Norgrove, Michael Cooper, Michael Flynn, Nicholas Glasgow, Nushin Ahmed, Peter Tait, Phil Jeans, Stuart Stapleton, Tween Low, Vida Viliunas, Guy Hibbins and Prof Kirsty Douglas.

5. PROXIES:

Proxies were notified as follows:

Dr Denise Krause to: Dr Suzanne Davey.

6. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2015:

Dr Gallagher referred members to the minutes of the 2015 AGM as circulated. On the motion of Prof Robson, seconded by Dr Miller, the minutes of the annual general meeting held on 13 May 2015 were confirmed.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Nil.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT and REPORT OF THE AUDITOR: Dr Andrew Miller

Dr Miller referred members to the financial reports as circulated and presented in the Annual Report distributed to the meeting, together with his report to the members.

Dr Miller advised that for the 2015 financial year, the company recorded a surplus from continuing operations of \$39,375 (2014 result \$33,667). The 2015 surplus has been achieved despite a decrease in total revenues from the 2014 levels, offset by again containing expenses.

While the winding up of the Careers Service MOU has significantly impacted revenue, other income streams improved including an \$18,000 increase in membership income. The company's publishing activities, both *Canberra Doctor* and the *Directory of Medical Specialists*, have returned record revenues.

The company experienced a decrease in total expenses of approximately \$28,000 when compared with 2014. Legal expenses, printing and postage have all decreased significantly.

Dr Miller advised that as a result of the carrying forward of accumulated tax losses from prior years, no income tax is currently payable on any surplus income generated from commercial activities.

The results this year represented the combined efforts of former CEO, Christine Brill and incoming CEO, Peter Somerville. While these transitions can be challenging, Christine has left a great legacy for which we are all grateful.

Dr Miller thanked Tanya Smith, Corporate Accountant and CEO, Peter Somerville for their attention to the completion of the 2015 financial reporting requirements.

Dr Miller moved from the chair that his report be received, seconded by Prof Robson and carried unanimously.

Dr Miller advised members present of the auditor's report and moved from the chair the report be received, seconded by Dr Dunlop and carried unanimously.

9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr Gallagher reported that it had been a year of several significant changes – most notably the end of an era with Christine Brill retiring after 32 years as CEO of AMA (ACT) – but also a new Health Minister, in Simon Corbell, and a new Director General in Nicole Feely.

AMA (ACT) welcomed new CEO, Peter Somerville, and she had been very reassured by the start he had made.

Dr Gallagher emphasised the 'go-to' role AMA (ACT) plays for media and other local contacts; comments and feedback are regularly sought on most health related issues.

Dr Gallagher acknowledged the hard work and support she had received from the Board and thanked them for their service. During the year, AMA (ACT) had been fortunate to have Prof Steve Robson take on the role of president-elect and likewise fortunate to have Dr Rashmi Sharma become Chair of the Advisory Council and a member of the Board.

Dr Gallagher emphasised AMA (ACT)'s continuing good relationship with the ANU Medical School, the highlight of which is hosting the Graduation Breakfast for each year's graduating class. Intern orientation was another opportunity to join new members and this year, for the first time in several years, we asked interns to pay for their AMA membership.

Dr Gallagher noted that the issue of workplace bullying and harassment had been at the forefront of issues of the course of the year and that the various AMA branches and the Federal AMA were all striving to get a just solution to an insidious problem.

Dr Gallagher thanked all those people who had assisted her over her term, how much she had valued being the AMA (ACT) representative and proud to have been associated with the AMA at both the local and Federal level.

Dr Gallagher moved from the chair her report be received, seconded by Dr Gillespie and passed unanimously.

10. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES FOR 50 YEAR MEMBERS: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr John Donovan – *first joined the AMA in 1966 and is a past president of AMA (ACT) having served in the period 1989-90. John still regularly sits on the Canberra Doctor editorial committee and we thank him for his service to the AMA.*

Dr Tony Griffin – *first joined the AMA in 1966 and was made a fellow of the AMA in 1994. Tony was on the ACT Branch council for several years during the 80s and 90s and held a range of positions principally Treasurer. Tony was instrumental in moving AMA (ACT) from the Canberra Hospital site to our first premises in Deakin.*

11. PRESENTATION OF THE 2015 PRESIDENT'S AWARD: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr Gallagher informed members that this award is presented annually to a person who, in the opinion of the President, has made a significant contribution to the Association and to the profession in the ACT and announced that the 2015 award was to be made to Dr Peggy Brown.

Dr Brown's citation reads:

'For outstanding service to the health of the ACT community and the medical profession in the areas of psychiatry and health administration. Dr Brown has shown outstanding leadership and professionalism from the time of her first ACT appointment as Chief Psychiatrist in 2004 on to being the ACT Director of Mental Health Services in 2005 and during her term as Director General of ACT Health from 2010 until 2015.

Dr Brown is much admired for her work in leading ACT Health through a period of growth and change including the opening of the Centenary Hospital for Women and the Canberra Region Cancer Centre.

Dr Brown's longstanding commitment to mental health policy development and implementation has given her a national and international reputation acknowledged by her peers. She has held numerous positions on professional bodies and, while Director General of ACT Health, chaired the Australian Health Ministers Advisory Committee.'

Dr Peggy Brown is unable to attend the meeting as she is overseas at this time.

12. PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr Gallagher presented Prof Robson with the chain of office and invited him to address the meeting.

Prof Robson paid tribute to Dr Gallagher's superb efforts over the previous two years. He emphasized her public profile and advocacy on behalf of AMA (ACT) and its members and how much it was appreciated.

Prof Robson then presented Dr Gallagher with a plaque to mark her term as president and thanked her the extensive work undertaken during those two years.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING: Dr Elizabeth Gallagher

Dr Gallagher closed the meeting and thanked all those in attendance both members and staff and wished Prof Robson well for his term as President.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Dr Elizabeth Gallagher
Chair