



Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on Friday 25 October 2019

Women's Health East, Heimat Centre, Doncaster East

PRESENT:

Dimity Paul, Leanna Marinucci, Dilnaz Billimoria, Wendy Roberts, Corrine Bowen, Aunty Jacqui Wandin (Guest Speaker), Sonja Terpstra MP (Guest Speaker), Karla McGrady (Guest Speaker), Hon. Ryan Smith MP, Cr. Anna Chen, Cr. Dot Haynes, Christine Farnon (DHHS), Wayne Molesworth (DHHS), Michael Smith, Peter Ruzyla, Sameera Abdeen, Tracey Blythe, Liam Cahill, Sulo Colombage, Melinda Dows, Tracey Egan, Ann Elkins, Joy Fairhall, Sigrid Firth, Helen Freris, Prabhjot Kaur, Wei Leng Kwok, Sarah Lausberg, Bree Morison, Laura Newstead, Leah North, Amy O'Toole, Owen Pietsch, Caroline Ridler, Sue Rosenhain, Michelle Rutherford, Mary Salter, Ruth Scharley, Suzanne Stojanovic, Emily Sykes, Bronwyn Upston, Debbie Wilkinson, Renee Williams, Robyn Williams, Arimaya Yates, Kristine Olaris (CEO), Autumn Pierce, Melissa Tully, Vanessa Czerniawski, Claire Butselaar, Emily Kate Cowan, Dima Al Tarsha, Georgina Nix, Samantha McGuffie, SJ Matthews, Rachel Soh, Rhiannon Taggart, Colleen Russell.

APOLOGIES:

Lisa Dunlop, Christabelle Adjoyan, Olive Aumann, Deepthi Iyer, Jan Young, Bruce Atkinson MLC, Paul Hamer MP, Mandy Mercuri, Brianna Myers, Susan Castle, Simon McMillan, Steve Koslowski, Lee Robson, Jacky Close, Mim, Cheryl Webster, Tricia Ong, Judith Drake, David Towl, Fiona Marshall, Josette O'Donnell, Maggie Palmer, Kate Gibson, Rebecca Dunsdon, Katie McKee.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Women's Health East acknowledges that we are meeting today on the land of the Wurundjeri people and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

1. WELCOME

Dimity Paul, Board Secretary, welcomed all members, guests and staff to the 2018 - 2019 Annual General Meeting. Dimity advised that Board Chair, Lisa Dunlop, was unable to attend today's meeting.

A special welcome was extended to:

Hon. Ryan Smith MP – Member for Warrandyte

Sonja Terpstra MP – Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region/Guest Speaker

Cr Anna Chen – Deputy Mayor, Manningham Council

Cr Dot Haynes – Manningham Council

Aunty Jacqui Wandin – Guest Speaker

Karla McGrady - Guest Speaker

CEOs from regional and statewide organisations

Women's Health East Board of Governance.

2. WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Dimity Paul introduced Aunty Jacqui Wandin, an Elder of the Wurundjeri people and resident of Coranderrk. Aunty Jacqui spoke about the history of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, founded in 1863, and current projects, including a Property Management Plan to protect areas of cultural significance, undertake weed management, fencing and water access works, and revegetation to create corridors for the critically endangered helmeted honeyeater. Information about Coranderrk can be found at

<http://www.coranderrk.com/>

Aunty Jacqui formally welcomed all attendees to Wurundjeri Country.

Dimity thanked Aunty Jacqui on behalf of all in attendance.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 29 November 2018 were circulated.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Women's Health East Inc. held on Thursday 29 November 2018 be confirmed.

Moved: Leanna Marinucci

Seconded: Dilnaz Billimoria

CARRIED

4. ADDRESS – SONJA TERPSTRA MP

Dimity Paul welcomed and introduced Sonja Terpstra MP. Sonja has been a Member of the Victorian Legislative Council since 2018, representing Eastern Metropolitan Region.

Representing Minister for Health, Jenny Mikakos MP, Sonja highlighted ways in which the Women's Health East vision aligns with the Victorian Government's vision for supporting women's health and wellbeing. Sonja referred to the work of WHE in promoting sexual and reproductive health priorities, and the Victorian Government's Sexual & Reproductive Health Plan 2017-20, which provides \$6.6m over four years to improve access to sexual and reproductive health services, including the establishment of a new S&RH Hub in Ringwood. Sonja highlighted the Victorian Government's new Rainbow eQuality Guide and WHE's recently completed Young & Queer in Melbourne's East Report. Sonja also mentioned the advocacy and partnerships work of WHE in preventing violence against women, which is a key priority for the Victorian Government.

Sonja commended the work of WHE and its partner organisations in the region.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT – from Annual Report 2018 – 2019

Dimity Paul presented the Chair's Report as detailed in the Women's Health East (WHE) Annual Report 2018-19.

Dimity highlighted the breadth of work undertaken by WHE during the year, including advocacy activities, development and delivery of training packages, sexual and reproductive health initiatives, success in securing funds for the Young & Queer in Melbourne's East project, and the work of advocates in the Speaking Out program.

Dimity thanked the Board Chair, Lisa Dunlop, and all Board members for their ongoing commitment, and acknowledged the outstanding work of the WHE staff and Speaking Out advocates under the strong leadership of Kristine Olaris. Dimity also thanked outgoing Board members, Stella Smith and Kristy McKellar, who left during the year.

6. CEO'S REPORT – from Annual Report 2018 – 2019

Kristine Olaris presented an overview of WHE's strategic directions, priorities and highlights of the past year, which included:

- A strong emphasis on and commitment to intersectionality in our work, ensuring consideration of the compounding types of discrimination experienced by women of differing backgrounds and circumstances.

- The Together for Equality & Respect (TFER) Partnership continued into its sixth year of collaborative work to prevent violence against women in the region.
- The Speaking Out Program, through its dedicated advocates, continued to play a strong role in building a commitment to prevention of violence against women, and influencing services, government, business and the wider community to improve responses to women who have experienced violence.
- Delivery of new and/or refreshed training packages across all WHE priority areas.
- WHE became an Our Watch endorsed training organisation, with three staff approved to deliver their workplace training packages.
- Participation in the Liwurruks in the Hood young Aboriginal women's leadership project, led by Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service.
- Partnered with Girl Geek Academy in the #MissMakesCode project, delivering coding workshops to primary school girls and their mums.
- Research projects – Young & Queer in Melbourne's East report on access to sexual & reproductive health services ; action research to contribute to the evidence base on family violence prevention for young LGBTIQ people; and investigating ways to shift harmful social norms in a secondary school setting.
- Bringing an intersectional gender lens to the issues of open space planning, and social inclusion and ageing.
- Developed and led the inaugural Sexual & Reproductive Health Week campaign in the region.
- Significant advocacy work and engagement with local/regional MPs and election candidates.
- Continued leadership of the Women's Health Services Quality Framework and participation in peer review processes within the sector.

Kristine thanked the Board, staff and volunteers, including the Speaking Out advocates, for their continued commitment and action to ensure positive outcomes for women. Kristine also thanked WHE's funders, including DHHS, and our many partners and supporters. She particularly highlighted the invaluable partnering support of the two PCPs in the region.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Leanna Marinucci (Treasurer) tabled the audited financial report for the year ended 30 June 2019. WHE's income for 2018-19 totalled \$1,137,765 and expenditure was \$1,202,817 – resulting in a planned deficit of \$65,052 for the year. WHE's net asset balance at 30 June 2019 was \$455,914. DHHS was WHE's major funder, with 38% of funding coming from other sources.

MOTION: That the audited financial statements for the year to 30 June 2019 be accepted.

Moved: Wendy Roberts

Seconded: Dimity Paul

CARRIED

8. ANNUAL REPORT

Dimity Paul formally tabled the 2018-19 Annual Report.

MOTION: That the Annual Report for 2018-2019 be received.

Moved: Corinne Bowen

Seconded: Suzanne Stojanovic

CARRIED

9. BOARD ELECTIONS

The CEO advised that the following members were elected unopposed to the Board of Women's Health East for a two year term:

Leanna Marinucci Dilnaz Billimoria Corrine Bowen Deepthi Iyer

All Board Members from 25 October 2019:

Olive Aumann Dilnaz Billimoria Lisa Dunlop
Leanna Marinucci Dimity Paul Christabelle Adjoyan
Wendy Roberts Deepthi Iyer Corinne Bowen

10. GUEST SPEAKER – KARLA McGRADY

Dimity introduced guest speaker Karla McGrady – proud Gamilaraay woman, artist and Senior Practice Advisor at Our Watch, where her role focuses on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and young people.

Karla spoke on the theme of Preventing Violence against Aboriginal Women and Children – How to Change the Picture. Her work with Our Watch began with the development of Changing the Picture, a resource document that speaks to the drivers of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. Karla now works within the Practice Leadership team to take this work from policy to practice.

The Our Watch team's research and consultations found that colonisation and its ongoing impacts is a driver of violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children. Karla spoke of the challenges of working at the intersection of sexism and racism, where 'racism is a form of violence, systems of oppression are violent, those enacting and enabling these systems are contributing to ongoing experiences of violence. It has serious physical and mental health implications for those that experience it.'

Karla stressed that 'if the focus for preventing violence against women is only on gender equality without intersectionality, then it is exclusionary'. She highlighted the importance of addressing racism and structural inequalities, of enacting principles that focus on empowering Aboriginal women in this region, building ongoing and mutually beneficial relationships between Aboriginal women/communities and organisations in the region, and advocating so that Aboriginal women can have their voices heard.

Karla also shared with us her recent experience of working with a group of women rangers from across the Northern Territory at the Strong Women for Healthy Country conference. Karla was invited to join the working group for the conference for her expertise with gender equality, sexism and racism, and her experience as an artist. The conference was held in Arnhem Land on sacred women's country.

Dimity Paul thanked Karla for her presentation.

11. CLOSE

Dimity thanked members, guests and staff for attending the 2018-2019 AGM and invited all present to stay for refreshments.

Meeting closed at 3.25pm.