

Draft minutes – Hui 2021

The following minutes are to be confirmed at the 2022 AIANZ Hui.

Introduction to Amnesty International NZ Annual Hui 2021

This year's Annual Hui was held on Saturday the 29th of May at the Piano in Christchurch.

The meeting opened at 09.00 and finished at 16.00.

The below minutes are of the Business section of the event which began at 13:00 and ended at 14:00.

Mihi Whakatau

Jonathon Hagger opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Opening Words and Candle Lighting

AIANZ Chairperson, Heather Hayden, opened the Hui and lit the Amnesty candle.

Introductions

AIANZ Executive Director, Meg de Ronde, did the introductions for the meeting.

Speed Dating – The Year that Was

The senior leadership team updated participants on key parts of the organisation and specific work and projects undertaken in the past year.

60 Years of Human Rights – Panel Session

Our panellists were: Tim Barnett, Chief of Staff to the Northern Territory's Attorney-General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; Carwyn Jones, Tumuaki Tāne of Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa (Co-President of the Māori Law Society); and Meg de Ronde.

Amnesty International NZ AGM (Official Business)

AIANZ Executive Director, Meg de Ronde (MdR), opened the business section of the Hui, confirmed quorum was present, and introduced the proposed chairperson for the meeting: Joanne Looyen (JL).

Resolution 1

That the annual meeting approves the 2020 annual meeting minutes, adopts the 2021 standing orders and agenda, and elects the following meeting officers:

- Meeting Chair: Joanne Looyen
- Returning Officer: Clara Williams
- Scrutineers: Esther Hutchings & Zebedee Stone

Proposer: Rosslyn Noonan

Secunder: Heather Hayden

Result: Passed by majority

Resolution 2

That the membership attending the Annual Hui 2021 elects: Tayyaba Khan (TK) as Vice Chairperson of the Board

TK was invited to the stage before the resolution was read to give her pepeha. Upon being voted as Vice-Chair of the Board, TK thanked the AIANZ members for the opportunity to work with Amnesty.

Proposer: Rosslyn Noonan

Secunder: Heather Hayden

Result: Passed by majority

Resolution 3

That the membership attending the Annual Hui 2020 elects: Jonathon Hagger (JH) as Treasurer of the Board.

JH was invited to the stage before the resolution was read to give his pepeha. Upon being voted in as Treasurer of the Board JH thanked the members for appointing him to the role.

Proposer: Heather Hayden

Secunder: Geoff Walker

Result: Passed by majority, one abstention

Presentation and Discussion on the Annual report

JL invited Heather Hayden (HH) to the stage to give the Chairperson's report. HH thanked the members for voting JH and TK to the Board and reflected on the three main themes of 2020:

- The wellbeing of staff: HH commended the Senior Management Team for the processes they established early into the pandemic to support staff.
- The financial impact of COVID: despite the uncertainties caused by COVID, we exceeded our financial targets and were able to achieve a loan write off. This is critical for the future of AIANZ and our ability to look for grant funding.
- AIANZ's operational activities: over the past year our operational activities have pivoted toward a domestic focus the culmination of which has been the release of our research project and campaign to end the detention of asylum seekers in NZ.

Alongside these trends, HH outlined the future trends and challenges that Amnesty is likely to face being the rise of authoritarian regimes during COVID times, the impacts of technology, and climate change.

Geoff Walker (GW) was invited to the stage to give the Treasurer's report. GW emphasised that when looking at financials, the trends are always oscillating, never linear and that in this year of chaos AIANZ is in a strong financial position. He outlined the main themes of 2020:

- The loan write-off: in 2020, AIANZ was able to write off an historic loan from 2009. Not only does this mean that AIANZ's assets exceed its liabilities for the first time in a decade, but it has also shown that we can achieve a specific ask and despite the uncertainty caused by COVID we were able to meet the targets and succeed in securing the write-off.
- Diversifying our fundraising streams: we have been very dependent on regular givers but 2020 saw a pivot to more diversified income streams which will continue.

GW outlined the foundations for AIANZ's financial success as: maintaining a healthy cash reserve (2-3 months), maintaining a financially knowledgeable team, and diversifying our income streams. Looking forward to the second half of 2021 and further, though the market is competitive, we are in a strong position financially.

GW invited JH to the stage to outline his financial experience before members voted on the resolution.

Resolution 4:

That the membership in attendance at the Annual Hui 2021 receives the 2020 annual report, which includes a report on activities and financial statements for 2020, and the budget and direction for 2021. The meeting approves the 2020 annual report.

Proposer: Esther Hutchings

Seconder: Margaret Taylor

Result: Passed by majority

Financial Sustainability

GW was invited to the stage to outline the history of this resolution and the formulation of it. At the 2020 Annual Hui, the Board was asked to propose a resolution on the long-term financial sustainability of AIANZ in 2021. GW outlined the measures that AIANZ are already taking to maintain financial stability as well as future challenges we may face to it including higher IS contributions from 2022 onwards and uncertainty around pandemic recovery. However, GW reiterated from his Treasurer's report that AIANZ is in a strong financial position and is continuing to diversify our income streams to increase sustainability.

Question: what the regular intervals will be?

MdR: we are required to provide a budget and five-year financial projections to the IS annually. Updated forecasts are prepared every 6 months, however, this is not provided to members as it is not a budget.

Resolution 5:

AIANZ will be financially sustainable by carrying out 5-year projections at regular intervals, monitoring financial trends and issues, and maintaining sufficient cash reserves. The Board will report on this to the membership at each AGM.

Proposer: Rosslyn Noonan

Seconder: Meg de Ronde

Result: Passed by majority

Report from the Chair of the Board on the proposed changes to the Incorporated Societies Bill

HH was invited to the stage to discuss the proposed change to the Incorporated Societies Bill and the impact that this will have on AIANZ.

The Bill is currently going through parliament with every expectation that it will pass. As an incorporated society, changes to the Bill will directly impact us particularly given how prescriptive it is. HH outline the key points of the Bill and how they relate to AIANZ:

- AIANZ will need to re-register
- AIANZ will need a new Constitution that includes the requirements of the Act

- AIANZ will need to keep a register of members, including when they started, when they left and their consent to be a member: this might be an issue for us as we have a more inclusive view of membership than the Bill allows
- Members must be allowed to see the register of members: this will likely be another issue for us as members may have privacy concerns
- There will be high accountability for Board members including significant fines or prison sentences

We have made a submission to the committee with our concerns around the register of members. The next steps for us is to get legal advice on the matter and consider whether we should register as a charitable trust as we're not willing to impact the inclusiveness of our membership.

HH concluded that we will produce a timeline for the membership on this.

Question: will we need to make tweaks to our constitution or substantial changes?

HH: our current constitution is mostly in line with the requirements of the Bill so likely that we will only need to make tweaks, however, we will be able to review that when the Bill is passed.

Question: HH was asked about attracting new Board members given the potentially increased liability implied in the proposed Act

HH: we are confident that we have the right processes and staff in place that Board members can trust and have the correct measures to rely on.

MdR: the Board's Governance committee manages the recruitment process for new Board members to ensure they understand their responsibilities and have the required skills and experience.

Question: is there any way we can indemnify Board members from liability?

HH: there liability for Board members of all organisations, including charities and not-for-profit organisations, under the Health and Safety at Work Act.

RN: Our statute does provide immunity for Board and staff carrying out their duties in good faith regardless of insurance.

Close of Official Business

HH thanked GW and RN for their continued support throughout their time on the Board and announced that RN has been nominated to the PREFCOM international committee.

MdR took the stage and thanked JL for hosting the session and all members for taking part and exercising their right to vote.

Guest Speaker

We heard from keynote speaker, Behrouz Boochani.

Dove Awards and Inaugural Winners of the Gary Ware Legacy Award

MT awarded this year's Dove Awards to the below winners, and honoured Clare Devereux and Lorna Leydon in memorium.

- Winner of the Dove Award for Long Service: Cynthia Greensill
- Winner of the Dove Award for Innovation: ACTivate Team

We watched a video update from the Gary Ware Legacy Award winners, Kiwi Ai.

Wrap Up and Review

The meeting was closed by MdR.