



MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday **10 MAY 2024**.

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and extended a warm welcome to the 22 members and 2 visitors. The President then proceeded to open discussion on whether WASFR should invest in Public Liability Insurance. S. Goodchild gave a summary of the background to this subject over the past 7 months (copy attached). P. Farr suggested that the risk was minimal and that we might be overreacting to something that should not happen. J. Howard agreed and suggested that the Bowling Club Insurance should cover all those groups that lease a meeting room. Several members voiced their opinion that the premium involved (\$650) was very cheap and that we should ensure that adequate cover is being provided. S. Goodchild answered these points and agreed that the premium given 2 – 3 months ago might now be somewhat higher - will check. Further comments were made supporting the concept that we should err on the side of being cautious and that such a small investment was nothing to be afraid of. Voting slips had been placed on tables and members were encouraged to tick the appropriate box. After collection of the voting slips the result was that WASFR should invest in Public Liability Insurance - voting 16 for and 6 against. The President then proceeded with the normal format of the meeting.

APOLOGIES:

V. Payne, R. & J. Dawson, J. Yeatman, A. Schipp, J. McPhail.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved R. Wyatt and seconded by I. Moller, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Investment Group: The last meeting was held on 18th April with 18 members in attendance. The guest speaker was Brendan Bate from HLB Mann Judd. The topic was *The Family Conference* and included issues involving Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, Title Deeds, various passwords, details of Bank accounts etc.. A date for the next meeting has not yet been arranged but it is expected to be sometime in June - guest speaker unknown at this stage.

Aged Care: The President repeated earlier comments regarding the lack of any detailed information concerning the new Aged Care Act. Some comments from an ABC report (dated 17 April), included that the Older Person's Advocacy Network (OPAN) had received \$38 million from the government last year - the Council on the Ageing (COTA) also received several millions from the government. Questions have been raised as to the degree of impartiality from these organisations. There is concern about how much additional payments will be required from the elderly as there has not been any actual public debate involved - most comments have come from industry lobbyists. *"If the legislation goes ahead, it will outsource a crucial aged care assessment service to the private sector and give retirement villages a lucrative piece of the aged care funding pie."* There is also concern regarding any legal consequences *"Nothing in this (act)...creates rights or duties that are enforceable by proceedings in a court or tribunal."* Another concern is that a recommendation was made by the Commissioners that *"Workers have a mandatory minimum qualification of a Certificate 111."* - but there is no reference to this in the new Act. There is a proposal that providers would be able to keep 3% of a Refundable Accommodation Deposit every year for a maximum of 5 years. The Taskforce also rejected the idea of a levy (similar to the Medicare levy), to cover the sector's costs and instead suggested those accessing care should pay more based on their personal wealth. Further action on the new Aged Care Act must be closely watched.

Emergency Services Levy (ESL): The President is trying to get a meeting with the Minister for Emergency Services but the prospects do not look good - always busy. The President has met with 3 State politicians with the main purpose of discussing our State submission - the ESL has also been discussed. Now that the State Budget has been announced there may be more time available for politicians to meet with interested parties. It was noticed that the ESL is due to increase by 5% next financial year.

Recruitment: Many requests have been made to the Social Convenor, and the President, at Ocean Gardens Retirement Village for the purpose of having a representative of WASFR attend one of their General meetings in order to outline our activities. The final phone call resulted in their President advising that they receive numerous requests of a similar nature but are not inclined to agree to such requests. Not a positive outcome.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails re Public Liability Insurance
- Email from Bank of Queensland - personal details etc.
- Emails re 2024/25 Federal Pre-Budget submission
- Emails from A.I.R. - Perth newsletter plus *AIR ACTIVE* (May)
- Emails re recruitment (incl. to Ocean Gardens Retirement Village)
- Email from Kate Chaney - April newsletter
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect* 11th, 18th, 25th April and 2nd May
- Email from Town of Cambridge
- Email from OPAN - *National Advocate* April edition
- Emails from COTA Australia - 2024 Federal submission and *Autumn* newsletter
- Email from COTA WA - Invitation to Parliament House WA 15th May
- Email from Dept. Health - *Engaged* April edition
- Emails re new proposed Aged Care Act (now due to come into force on 1 July 2025)
- Emails to/from OPAN re webinar on 26th March plus reply (questionable outcomes)
- Email/Letter from Minister for Emergency Services
- Emails from Australian Seniors - *DARE* magazine
- Email to Gold Coast Retirees re newsletters
- Letter from WA Minister for Seniors - re Seniors Peak Body
- Brisbane North Retirees - May newsletter
- Emails from ACOSS (5)
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (6)

FINANCE: The Treasurer, M. Harris, invited members to look at the monthly financial statement printed on the reverse of today's Agenda. Funds available as at 7th May were \$6,293.29 with no outstanding accounts. A comment was made that the Term Deposit that matured on 11th April had not been renewed - funds now held in the NAB account for the time being. The Treasurer then reminded everyone that the Committee had agreed to increase membership fees by \$5 per person commencing as from 1 July 2024. No further questions from members. Moved M. Harris, seconded E. Goodchild, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Carried.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Other: The President briefly commented on the State Budget that had been announced last night and invited members to raise any other issues that might be relevant to future submissions. No suggestions. The Federal Budget is due to be brought down next week.

After the morning tea break the President introduced Jordan Bishop from the Lions Hearing Clinic in Subiaco. Jordan has been an Audiologist with the Lions Hearing Clinic since 2015 and is keen to promote healthy hearing in the community. It is well known that, as one gets older, impaired hearing can become quite common, but it may not be widely recognised that our hearing can be related to different aspects of general health. Jordan's power-point presentation was well received and she was able to stay on for a while after finishing her talk. Many questions from members. A small presentation was made by the President to Jordan for her interesting presentation.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

14 June	Odette Gaynor	<i>Incontinence - it is not Taboo to talk about the Loo</i>
12 July	Professor Dr. Don McFarlane	<i>The importance of Urbane Wet Lands - the Perry Lakes Revival Project</i>

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 14 JUNE 2024

WASFR Inc. does not give advice on any personal or financial matters.

Nothing written or spoken in the course of WASFR meetings, talks or publication is to be construed as advice given to members.

State & Federal Advocates for Fully and Partly Self Funded Retirees