



MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday 14 JUNE 2024.

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and extended a warm welcome to the 22 members and 9 visitors.

APOLOGIES:

V. Payne, R. & J. Dawson.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved R. Wyatt and seconded by J. Howard, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Public Liability Insurance: The President announced that payment of \$650 had been made and a Certificate of Insurance has been received - valid as from 7 June 2024. S. Goodchild outlined a few relevant details and was available to answer questions from members.

Investment Group: The last meeting was held on 18th April and the next meeting was expected to occur in June. Unfortunately there has been a minor delay in finalising a guest speaker so there is no definite date available at this stage. R. Wyatt commented that everyone was welcome to attend the Investor's meeting conducted by A.I.R. - second Wednesday commencing at 1.30pm (same room as our meetings).

Aged Care: The President commented that meetings are still being held by various organisations concerned about the details/conditions etc. that should be included in the new Aged Care Act. M. Walsh, a current member of the Council of Elders, and a past member of the Aged Care Taskforce, was invited to offer some comments. Around 70 of the 148 recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aged Care, Quality & Safety have been acted on - this is not often recognised by the public. There are still a number of details to be finalised - including the funding and how much will be required from those who need to move into Aged Care facilities. Mention was made of the 24,100 additional Home Care Packages which have been announced, although the waiting times for all of the 4 levels has increased considerably (can be as high as 9 months for some). There was a brief mention made of the perceived lack of impartiality in the set-up of the Council of Elders, and the Taskforce. The new Act was originally scheduled to operate as from 1 July 2024 but this has now been changed - possibly not now till 1 July 2025? No news on the future of Refundable Accommodation Deposits (RADs) nor any information on the possibility of providers being allowed to keep 3% of a Refundable Accommodation Deposit every year for a maximum of 5 years. M. Walsh encouraged all members to log on to the web-site and offer comments on the future of this Aged Care Act - failure to do so could lead to some "unpopular" outcomes. Both the Older Person's Advocacy Network (OPAN) and the Council on the Ageing (COTA) have been heavily involved in discussions with the government, and potential users.

Recruitment: The President briefly outlined the efforts made over the past 12 months to the Committee at the Ocean Gardens Retirement Village for the purpose of having a representative of WASFR attend one of their meetings. The purpose is mainly to inform the residents what WASFR is/has been doing regarding submissions to both State and Federal governments. We are always on the lookout for suggestions, from anyone, that has a bearing on the welfare, and to the benefit, of retirees. Finally, the President of the Residents Group said that he receives a fairly high number of requests from all sorts of organisations who wish to address the residents at Ocean Gardens and the usual result is to advise that permission is not granted. WASFR will not continue to seek permission to attend one of their meetings.

Federal Budget: The Budget had been announced the week following the last WASFR meeting. The President asked if there were any particular comments that members wished to raise. General discussion also included Deeming Rates (expected to increase but didn't) plus the \$3 million limit on superannuation as from 1 July 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails from COTA Australia & OPAN re Federal Budget and Aged Care (also webinar 21st May)
- Emails re Public Liability Insurance
- Email from COTA WA re Parliamentary meeting - 15th May (no announcements re *WA Seniors Peak Body*)
- Emails from OPAN - incl. "*The National Advocate*" (May edition)
- Emails re SCAMs (supposedly from Bob Arnold)
- Emails from A.I.R. - Perth newsletter
- Emails re Investor group
- Emails re *WA Seniors Peak Body* - Advocare WA announced as the new *WA Seniors Peak Body*
 - meeting to be held after 1 July with the CEO of Advocare (who has resigned as from September)
 - a meeting was held with the CEO of COTA WA on 12th June to discuss the future of COTA WA
 - COTA WA (is the current *Seniors Peak Body* - until 30th June)
- Email from Kate Chaney - May newsletter (incl. Federal Budget) (also invitations to public events)
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect* 11th, 16th, 24th and 31st May (plus re the Federal Budget)
- Email from Town of Cambridge
- Email from Dept. of Communities - *Guide to Ageism Language*, also "*Life in Pictures*"
- Email from Anne Aly's office re non-acceptance of submissions
 - submissions will now only be received from people who reside in her electorate
- Email re new address for Retirees WA - moved to a Retirement facility in Salter point
- Email from Arthritis & Osteoporosis WA - *e News June 2024*
- Email from Dept. Health - *Engaged* May edition
- Gold Coast Retirees - May and June newsletters
- Brisbane North Retirees - June newsletter
- Emails from ACOSS (5)
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (9)

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 June were \$6,773.34 with outstanding accounts totalling \$167.20. No further questions from members.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Other: J. Yeatman raised the issue of small surcharges being levied on payments made by Credit Card. Other comments included that National Seniors are encouraging members to sign a petition calling for the retention of cash - even though cheques will, eventually, become obsolete.

P. Farr said that some Not-For-Profit organisations that have an ABN (Australian Business Number), may need to lodge an annual NFP self review income tax exemption (WASFR does not have an ABN so will not apply).

After the morning tea break the President introduced Odette Gaynor and Deborah Waghorn, from Therapy Focus, who proceeded to discuss continence issues in the elderly. Odette has worked in this field for 14 years and has completed her Masters of Clinical Physiotherapy (Continence and Pelvic Health), at Curtin University. She is the Clinical Lead at Therapy Focus where she has worked since 2014. Deborah has been an Occupational Therapist for over 30 years and has worked with people with disabilities from early intervention to adults. She has extensive experience in the provision of equipment to maintain or promote independence. Incontinence issues are common to all ages but more so in the elderly. Whilst permanent cures are not common it is possible for a high level of minimisation in many clients. The power-point presentation showed issues that can assist in reducing the level of incontinence in many people. Many questions from members. A small presentation was made by the President to Odette and Deborah for their informative presentation.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

12 July	Professor Dr. Don McFarlane	<i>The importance of Urbane Wet Lands - the Perry Lakes Revival Project</i>
9 August	Professor Charlie Fox	<i>The History of the Claremont Mental Hospital</i>

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 12 JULY 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